



## Lanka studies upsurge of violence

COLOMBO, Dec 12, (Agencies): The government today summoned the National Security Council to investigate the worst upsurge in Sinhalese radical violence of the past three months, a military official said.

The official, said Sinhalese radicals had killed 54 men, women and children, torched 102 vehicles and 13 state-owned buildings, including a library and a rubber factory, since Sunday.

The military official said the National Security Council, the country's top military organisation, was studying intelligence reports to find out what was behind the sud-

den upsurge of violence. The victims, all Sinhalese, were either shot or hacked to death, the official said.

In addition to the deaths blamed on the radicals, police found 65 bodies of suspected Sinhalese radicals shot and killed by vigilantes in the central and southern parts of Sri Lanka.

Most of the killings occurred in southern Matara district, where 35 people died. The area is 135 kilometres (85 miles) south of Colombo.

Notes left behind indicated the victims were killed because they were suspected of being

either government informants or supporters of the governing United National Party, the official said.

The radical People's Liberation Front started a violent campaign against the government to protest a peace accord signed in 1987 to end a rebellion by Tamil militants.

Sinhalese radicals say the accord gave too many concessions to the Tamils, who make up 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people.

Tamils say they want their own homeland because they are denied jobs and education by the majority Sinhalese, who account for about 75 per cent of the island's population.

## Aquino set to get more powers

MANILA, Dec 12, (Reuter): The Philippine Congress rallied behind President Corazon Aquino today, putting the final touches to a law which would give her emergency powers to crush further military coup attempts against her government.

Senator Nestor Gonzales, leader of the country's largest political party and main sponsor of the emergency bill, compared the bloody Dec 1-7 revolt to an "earthquake".

"Thousands of those who participated in the coup, especially the masterminds and plotters, are still unaccounted for," Gonzales told the Senate in a speech urging members to pass the bill swiftly.

"Assassinations of marked officials is a threat we cannot ignore. Hundreds of loose firearms are yet to be collected," he said.

Aquino was unharmed when rebel aircraft bombed the presidential palace in Manila at the start of the coup which Gonzales called "the bloodiest and most destructive rebellion ever waged against the Aquino government."

The official death toll in the coup, the sixth Aquino has faced since she took office amid massive displays of popular support in 1986, was 119 with about 600 injured.

Gonzales said he expected the Senate to pass the bill later today with the House of Representatives adding its endorsement by tomorrow. Aquino aides said she hoped to sign it into law on Friday.

The proposed law would give Aquino the power to order raids on homes and private offices to search for weapons and to take over public utilities and related businesses, fix prices, regulate power supplies and seize hoarded food.

She would also have authority to order the compulsory settlement of labour disputes.

Legislators said the main thrusts of the law were to help rebuild the shattered economy and arm Aquino against any more attempted coups.

"With about 2,000 rebel soldiers still unaccounted for, the threat from the army rebels definitely is still there," said Gonzales of the Democratic Filipino Struggle (DPS) Party.

"There's no contribution on their part. They don't even feel sorry for what they have done. In fact, they feel they are the victors."

Opposition legislators argued against the law, saying it would give Aquino dictatorial powers and further polarise the country. Leftist groups have threatened to challenge the law in the Supreme Court.

Millions lost in coup attempt

## Rebels' den raided

MANILA, Dec 12, (AP): Government soldiers today raided the houses of a suspected leader and a suspected sympathizer of last week's coup attempt and seized ammunition and radio equipment, the military reported. The suspects were not in their homes.

Meanwhile, the state-run news agency reported that between \$300 million and \$500 million pesos (\$14.3 million and \$23.8 million) worth of military equipment was destroyed in the nine-day mutiny.

An officer, speaking on condition of anonymity, said raiders seized 150 rounds of M-16 and 50 rounds of Uzi submachine-gun ammunition from the house of former army Maj. Lyle Tugbang near the Manila airport in suburban Paranaque.

Soldiers also found radio equipment and a list of radio frequencies, including those of 32 Metropolitan Manila police stations and the Manila Bulletin, he said.

The military said Tugbang led rebel troops who disarmed air force soldiers guarding Manila's domestic airport in the early hours on Dec. 1, the first day of the coup attempt.

The 40 M-16 assault rifles taken by the rebel soldiers from the air force guards have not been recovered, the officer said.

Tugbang also led a rebel band that tried to break through a military blockade on a seaside road near the airport, he added.

Soldiers also raided the house of Cornelio Sangalang, identified only as a former military officer and rebel sympathizer. The military said a van that had been used to transport the missing M-16s was found in garage of Sangalang's home, which also was near the airport.

Tugbang and Sangalang were not at home during the raids. Tugbang's wife told raiders her husband had not come home for about a month.

The Philippines News Agency said military losses in the coup attempt included three World War II vintage T-28 planes and one Sikorsky helicopter gunship used by the rebels to bomb the Malacanang presidential palace and the armed forces headquarters.

One F-5 fighter-bomber was destroyed when it crashed, killing its pilot. Maj. Danilo Atienza, leader of the loyal air force group that destroyed the rebel aircraft.

Japan lifted restrictions on its travellers going to the Philippines, three days after the coup attempt ended in the Philippines, officials said.

Unidentified gunmen ambushed a provincial deputy police superintendent today near the US-run Clark Air Base, wounding the officer and a security aide and killing two bodyguards, police said.



### Business as usual

It's business as usual for the British embassy yesterday despite a shattered glass window at its offices in a 19-storey building in the centre of Manila's financial district of Makati. The embassy and building were damaged when government troops flushed out rebel forces occupying rooftops of highrise buildings in the area. (AP Wirephoto)

## Marcos gang killed his foes

### Deaths in Seattle

SEATTLE, (UPI): A Filipino congressman testified yesterday in federal court Monday that the 1989 killing of two Seattle union workers was engineered by the intelligence network of the Marcos regime while Marcos was in power.

But lawyer Richard Hibey, representing Imelda Marcos and the estate of her late husband, attempted to discredit Gillego by saying much of the information he gathered after leaving Philippines intelligence was based on hearsay.

Before they were slain, Viernes and Domingo planned to travel to the Philippines to investigate allegations of brutality by the Marcos regime.

Gillego said Marcos' intelligence operatives, under the direction of Philippine Gen. Fabian Ver, a Marcos loyalist, routinely used threats and physical violence to silence critics of the regime.

He said many critics of Marcos "disappeared" or were jailed and tortured. Some were killed, Gillego said.

Gillego told the court an intelligence "slush fund" provided \$15,000 "for the murders" of Viernes and Domingo.

### Cabinet reshuffle

## Benazir in no hurry

ISLAMABAD, Dec 12, (Kuna): Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto today ruled out the possibility of her forming a broad-based government but said she would like to add like-minded opposition members of parliament to her cabinet.

"We are looking for moderate elements," she said while addressing a press conference in the parliament house this afternoon after the National Assembly was adjourned at the end of its first winter session.

Benazir said the main conditions for entry into her cabinet for opposition members was that they should have "democratic credentials" and did not believe in mid-term polls, which she said were not at all necessary. "My government has a right to rule for full term of five years," she remarked.

A third condition, according to her, was that the entrant would accept the manifesto of her Pakistan People's Party. In return, she said, the PPP would give due consideration to his views.

Benazir, who according to a press report, was expecting her second child within a week, said she was not in a hurry to reshuffle her cabinet.

"The federal cabinet will be reshuffled at an appropriate time and as soon as the majority position of the government stabilised in the parliament," she added.

Moreover, the strength of the cabinet would also be "appropriate," Benazir remarked.

As regards criticism about her enlarged cabinet, she said former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi's cabinet consisted of 58 ministers while Bangladeshi President Hussein Mohammad Ershad's cabinet comprised 48 members.

As compared to them, her cabinet was of lesser ministers, she said without giving their exact number and adding: "I have a right to have a larger cabinet, even up to 100 or 110 to run the affairs of the country."

Premier Benazir categorically denied press reports that she had extended formal invitation to the combined opposition parties alliance in the parliament to join a broad-based government.

On hotly debated issue of her differences with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan on the appointment of superior court judges, she said "the two of us have resolved the issue through mutual understanding in our meeting yesterday."

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Arabic text: ملخصات

## INTERNATIONAL

ARAB TIMES, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1989

Nadia Comaneci affair

**Wife's agony**

HALLANDALE, Florida, Dec 12. (AP): The wife of the man who helped Olympic gold medallist Nadia Comaneci escape from Romania took to the airwaves yesterday to tell her side of the story.

Maria Panait said she was proud when she first learned of the role her husband, Constantin, played in the defection of Comaneci, the gymnast who beguiled crowds at the 1976 Olympics.

Devastated

But her pride turned to devastation when Comaneci and Panait appeared together in a news conference to announce they planned to settle down together.

She said she has not heard from her husband since the escape.

"I didn't sleep for five days, I've lost ten pounds (4 kilograms), it's been very hard," said Mrs Panait, 25.

She lives in Hallandale with her four children, who also appeared on television to say they missed their father.

Their statements came on a short promotional tape for the "Hard Copy" show, which was aired in its entirety.

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**Killer offered praise, money**

NEW YORK, Dec 12. (AP): The city is on the lookout for another subway killer — but this time people want to give him money and moral support. Even the victim's mother says she won't press charges if the killer turns up.

The man they're looking for was riding a train about 5 am, on Saturday when two men started beating and robbing another. According to witnesses, the fourth man said "this is wrong, we're not going to have any more of this."

Then he plunged a knife into assistant Jeanne Jones' heart. The other mugger fled and, when the train pulled into the next station, the attacker walked off the train and into obscurity.

The man has become an instant folk hero to many New Yorkers fed up with subway crime. The case is similar to that of Bernhard Goetz, who in 1984 shot four teen-agers whom he believed were preparing to rob him on a train.

The mother of the dead man, May Jones, said in an interview in the daily news that she would not press charges against the man.

A friend of the Jones family, who answered the family's phone yesterday, said Mrs Jones was not granting interviews, but remained firm in her support for the suspect.

Jones was in the process of appealing someone when it happened. Brining charges against the man would be kind of hellacious," said Winston Jay, who said he had known the Jones family for about 20 years.

The police want to talk to the man, but it's not clear whether he faces any criminal charges.

Norman Siegel, head of the city chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, offered the man legal advice and said, "this guy might not have to worry."

He said state law permits the use of deadly physical force if there is appropriate justification, including robbery.

But he called for a police review of the stabbing and added: "Just because people think this guy's a hero doesn't mean they shouldn't do a thorough investigation."

Jerry Prester, president of the Federation of New York State Rifle and Pistol Clubs, said the gun club has offered the man a \$1,000 "Courageous Citizen" award and free legal counsel, but urged him not to come forward.



Transplantee leaves for home

Liver transplant baby Ichiro Tsuruyama, 21 months-old and his mother Atsuko at the Brisbane's Royal Children's Hospital before leaving for Japan

## PEOPLE AND PLACES

NEW YORK: Governor Mario Cuomo turned the tables by asking questions of a reporter Sunday but did not use the opportunity to put him in too hot a seat.

In the planned but unannounced switch, Cuomo told Gabe Pressman on a news programme: "Frankly, you look less intimidating to me than this seat."

During the half-hour show, the governor quizzed the reporter about politics, the homeless, taxes and zoning — but did not question him as severely as journalists have been known to question politicians.

Cuomo did, however, get Pressman to concede that he occasionally feels sorry for the politicians he's questioned — including Cuomo.

"There have been moments," Pressman said. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Bill Cosby, favourite television father in the United States and author of the book "Fatherhood," says he is estranged from his real-life daughter Enimay, whom he calls irresponsible and untrustworthy.

"She's 23 now. She's never held down a job, never kept an apartment for more than six months. She uses her boyfriends. She wants the finer things but she can't stand anybody else's dirt,"

**Sleep tight  
Bag 'em**

SINGAPORE, Dec 12. (AP): Two airlines have announced plans to issue sleeping bags to passengers stranded at the airport here when hotel rooms are not available.

Singapore Airlines said it will use 400 sleeping bags to make waiting for delayed flights or unexpected layovers at Changi airport more bearable, an airline spokesman said yesterday. He said they will be used "only as a last resort."

Cosby said in an interview published in Sunday's Los Angeles Times.

"The problem isn't alcohol or drugs — at the Rehab Centre her urine showed up negative. It's behavioural. She's very stubborn."

Miss Cosby checked out of a drug rehabilitation centre in September after acknowledging cocaine, marijuana and alcohol abuse.

"Looking back, I can't believe how dad managed to go on with his show every week, portraying

America's favourite father, while having a daughter like me causing so much pain," she was quoted as saying in the National Enquirer's October 10th edition.

Her father, whose best seller "Fatherhood" is about raising his five children, said that "tough love" — letting Enimay work it out on her own — was the only way to allow her to deal with her problems.

NASHVILLE, Tennessee: Country music star Johnny Cash, who entered a two-week drug abuse relapse programme in November, says he is not bitter about his problems but he thinks drug abuse often is misunderstood.

"It is a genetic disease," Cash said in an interview published Sunday. "When I go into treatment, it is exactly as if I were having chemotherapy for cancer or taking insulin for diabetes."

Cash said he entered the drug abuse relapse programme when he feared he was starting to backslide by becoming dependent on narcotic painkillers after double bypass heart surgery late last year.

"I've bottomed out on drugs before, and I don't ever want to go through a hell like that again," said Cash, 57, whose hits include "Ring of Fire," "Folsom Prison Blues" and "I Walk the Line."

**Trekking team reach S. Pole****Peary claim accepted**

ST PAUL, Minnesota, Dec 12. (AP): A six-man international ski and sled dog team has reached the South Pole, a milestone in a planned 4,000-mile (6,400-km) trek across Antarctica, the team headquarters said.

"Here we are. Horrah," read a satellite message sent by the team to the expedition's St Paul headquarters, said Cathy de Moll, an expedition spokeswoman at the mission's St Paul headquarters.

The international trans-Antarctica expedition is believed to have reached the pole at about 1900 GMT yesterday, based on satellite tracking of the team, De Moll said.

Officials had said last weekend that they were having difficulty establishing radio contact with the expedition, which has travelled more than 1,900 miles (3,000 km) since leaving the northern tip of the Antarctic peninsula on July 27.

The team, made up of explorers from France, the Soviet Union, Great Britain, Japan, China and the United States, is making its \$11 million, seven-month journey to bring world attention to Antarctica and to demonstrate the power of international co-operation.

The group is the first to reach the pole by dogsled since Roald Amundsen was the first to do so on Dec 14, 1911. But the team's arrival marks only the halfway point for the expedition, which is the first unmechanised traverse of Antarctica.

American scientists at the Scott-Amundsen Scientific Research base at the South Pole gave the adventurers a tour of the dome station, said De Moll.

The team plans to stay at the South Pole until Friday, but hasn't specified why, she said.

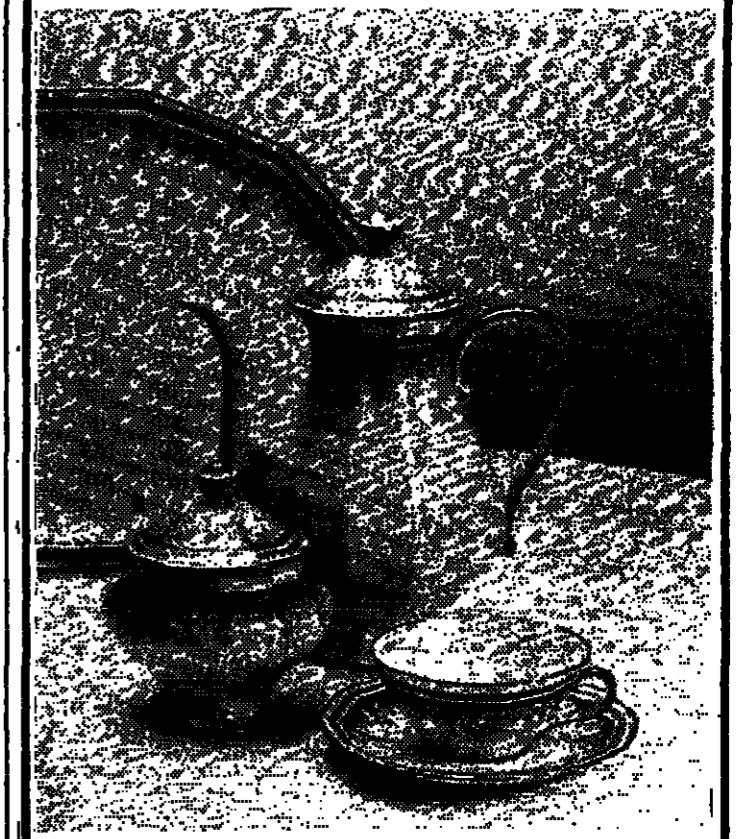
"We are surmising that they want to dry out their clothes and make sure their dogs are in really

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**YVES SAINT LAURENT**

# Presidents call to demobilise Salvador rebels

## US, Soviets must play bigger role in Centam peace

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica, Dec 12, (AP): Central American presidents called today for the demobilisation of El Salvador's leftist guerrillas and said the United States and Soviet Union should play a bigger role in regional peace.

"This is a blow against those who want war," President Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua said.

The agreement expressed support for El Salvador's rightist government as a government "born out of a democratic and pluralistic process."

It also "forcefully demanded" that the rebel Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, or FMLN, publicly renounce "violent actions that directly or indirectly affect civilian populations."

The agreement condemned "armed activities and terrorism by irregular forces in the region" and said the FMLN should cease

hostilities and resume talks with the government.

It also asked UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to try to restart peace talks between the rebels and El Salvador's rightist government.

At the end of a two-day summit, the presidents also agreed in a 13-point document that aid to US-backed Nicaraguan Contra rebels should be diverted to a commission to disband the rebels and repatriate them to Nicaragua or third countries.

The rebels broke off talks after the Oct 31 bombing of a union headquarters in San Salvador and on Nov 11 launched an urban offensive that produced some of the heaviest fighting of their decade-old war.

Hundreds of civilians are believed to have died amid the fierce combat in the capital between the rebels and troops of El Salvador's US-backed government.

The summit accord said the United Nations should arrange a more direct role for the United States and the Soviet Union and oversee the demobilisation of both the FMLN and the US-backed Nicaraguan rebels.

Central America was a thorny issue at the recent superpower summit in Malta, and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev told President George Bush the Soviet Union was not sending arms to Central America. The Soviets are also reportedly pressuring both Cuba and Nicaragua to end support for leftist insurgents in the region.

The Central American presidents also offered their support to Nicaragua's leftist government, saying the United States should funnel into demobilisation efforts the non-lethal aid that has kept the Contras together in Honduran base camps.



The five Central American presidents join hands for peace at the end of a mass to pray for peace on Dec 11. Left to right: Jose Azcuna, Honduras; Cristiani, El

Salvador; Oscar Arias, Costa Rica; Vinicio Cerezo, Guatemala; and Daniel Ortega, Nicaragua. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Salvador army kills 19 leftists

# Rebel town bombed

SAN PEDRO NONUALCO, El Salvador, Dec 12, (Reuter): Army helicopters and planes rocketed and strafed a town in El Salvador yesterday after it was occupied by leftist guerrillas, witnesses said.

Red Cross workers said one civilian was killed and eight wounded in the 30-minute bombardment which damaged houses in San Pedro Nonualco, 60 km (35 miles) east of San Salvador.

Soldiers and rebels also fought sporadic battles in the province in La Paz as Central American presidents met in Costa Rica to try to steer both sides to the negotiating table.

Residents said Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) rebels entered San Pedro Nonualco, a town of about 10,000, early on Monday and occupied it for about five hours.

An army unit intercepted a group of rebels after they pulled out of the town, journalists said. An army officer said both sides took casualties in the fire fight which followed but gave no figures.

Rebels also attacked the nearby towns of Santa Maria Ostuma and Tonacatepeque, where two civilians were killed, local journalists said.

The army said it had killed 19 guerrillas and wounded 11 in several firefights mainly in the east of the country since Sunday night.

The capital, scene of heavy street fighting for several weeks after the rebels launched their biggest offensive of the 10-year long war on Nov 11, was quiet on Monday. More than 2,500 people have been killed in the offensive.

Five Central American presidents were meeting in Costa Rica to seek an end to the fighting.

Costa Rica has proposed a Christmas truce in El Salvador as a prelude for negotiations between the FMLN and the right-wing government.

President Bush said he has been "guaranteed" by my satisfaction that Lucia Barrera de Cerna, eyewitness to the recent killings of six Jesuit priests in El Salvador, is being treated properly by US authorities.

Bush appeared to be attempting to rebut charges made by Salvadoran Archbishop Arturo Rivera Damas US officials, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, were subjecting Cerna, a housekeeper for the slain priests, to "brainwashing, threats and psychological torment" in an attempt to discredit her testimony implicating Salvadoran soldiers in the slayings.

Paraguay: The cabinet offered to resign to give Paraguayan President Gen. Andres Rodriguez a free hand to settle factional strife within the ruling Colorado Party.

The 11 ministers met several days ago and decided to put at the disposition of the President our respective resignations, Education Minister Dionisio Gonzalez Torres told reporters after meeting with Rodriguez and the ministers of justice and the interior.

Brazil: Right-wing populist Fernando Collor de Mello and Socialist firebrand Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva stood virtually neck-and-neck on Monday just six days before Brazil's presidential election.

It will be the country's first direct vote for president in 29 years and coincides with acute economic crisis.

The latest opinion poll carried out by Datafolha for the newspaper Folha de Sao Paulo showed Collor with 47 per cent and Lula with 44 per cent.

Guatemala: A student leader who fled Guatemala after five of his cohorts were slain and another five were kidnapped has been murdered, police said.

Marco Tulio Montenegro had only recently returned to Guatemala from Panama, where he took refuge after armed men with walkie talkies began grabbing student leaders off the streets in August.

Peru: Maoist Shining Path guerrillas slaughtered 49 peasants in attacks against highland villagers viewed as traitors to the rebel struggle, police said.

In the bloodiest raid, a rebel column of 80 to 100



A young girl grimaces in pain in San Pedro, El Salvador, after being injured in an aerial attack. (Reuter wirephoto)



The mother (centre) of a wounded girl and her neighbours pause in a silent prayer over the girl in San Pedro Nonualco, El Salvador. (Reuter wirephoto)

fighters killed 30 peasants, including several women, before dawn Monday in Paccha, a village of 800 people 30 miles (50 kilometres) south of here, police said Monday.

A military court has found two police officers guilty of homicide in the slaying of 60 to 70 guerrilla inmates after a bloody prison riot was put down in 1986.

The court on Monday said 60 to 70 of the 124 Shining Path inmates killed in rioting at Lurigancho Prison on June 19, 1986, were shot to death after they surrendered.

In the bloodiest raid, a rebel column of 80 to 100

Mexican pleads not guilty in agent's death

LOS ANGELES, Dec 12, (AP): The brother-in-law of a former Mexican president has pleaded "absolutely innocent" to charges that he plotted to torture and kill a US drug agent.

Speaking loudly, 59-year-old Ruben Zuno Arce entered the plea yesterday through an interpreter during an arraignment before US district court Judge Edward Rafeedie.

Zuno was charged with conspiring to kill DEA agent Enrique Camarena Salazar in 1983 and other violations in an indictment that said he is a

member of a drug cartel.

He took part in a meeting with the four other men during the first week of February 1983, to discuss "the kidnapping and interrogation" of Camarena, the indictment said.

He was part of a plot to murder Camarena "for the purpose of maintaining and increasing" trafficking in Marijuana and cocaine, the complaint said.

Conviction could result in life in prison.

Juan Jose Bernabe Ramirez, a co-

defendant, is charged with the felony murder of a federal agent, among other things.

Zuno, a businessman and brother-in-law of former Mexican President Luis Echeverria, was arrested Saturday by DEA agents as he got off a plane arriving from Mexico at Los Angeles international airport.

On Feb 7, 1983, Camarena was abducted by members of the Guadalajara Narcotics cartel, an organization that distributes tonnes of marijuana and cocaine, the indictment said.

general election is scheduled Feb 25.

The National Opposition Union (UNO) leaders say the riot was part of a Sandinista plot to make campaigning impossible and force them to pull out of a race.

The Sandinistas claim UNO is setting the stage to do just that: pull out of the race and discredit the elections and the government.

The perception that the disturbances could be caused by Sandinista hotheads beyond the control of the party leadership was denied by a Sandinista official.

"We have very good control," the official

## Millions of kids doomed: Unicef

UNITED NATIONS, Dec 12, (AP): Third World spending on armaments and debt service rather than health and nutrition could doom 100 million children to death by disease and starvation in the 1990s, according to a Unicef report released today.

James P. Grant, the executive director of the UN Children's Fund, said in his annual report that the developing nations collectively spend nearly a billion dollars each day, over half their total expenditures, on weapons and debt service.

That expense trickles down, costing each family in the Third World more than \$400 a year and depriving them of basic nutrition and health care, he said.

Almost 8,000 children die each day because they are not immunized, almost 7,000 die daily from dehydration caused by diarrhoea; and about 6,000 are killed each day by pneumonia, Grant said.

The cost of immunizing all these children and providing medicines for dehydration and pneumonia would be about \$2.5 billion a year, Grant estimates in the report, "the state of the world's children — 1990."

"It is a great deal of money," Grant said. "It is as much as the Soviet Union has been spending on vodka. It is as much as US companies have been spending on advertising cigarettes. It is as much as 10 per cent of the EEC's annual subsidy to its farmers. It is as much as 2 per cent of the developing world's military spending."

If present trends continue, the report says, over 100 million children will die needlessly in the next decade.

"They will die in the sunken-eyed coma of dehydration, or in the gasping extremes of pneumonia, or in the iron grip of tetanus, or in the fever of measles, or on the rack of whooping cough," Grant said.

Those five illnesses, all treatable or preventable by inexpensive vaccines, antibiotics or oral rehydration therapy, account for over half of the 14 million annual child deaths and the bulk of the malnutrition in the world, according to Unicef.

To mobilize the political will to solve these problems in the 1990s, Unicef is calling for a "world summit for children" to be held at UN headquarters in September. Over 100 nations have endorsed the idea, Grant said.

"It is time that the needs of children were given this kind of priority," he said.

"Protecting the physical and mental development of children is the most important of all investments in the social and economic development of our society," he said.

"Doing what can now be done to achieve that goal is therefore an issue worthy of its place on the agenda of the world's political leaders," he said.

Violence threatens chances for fair elections in Nicaragua

MANAGUA, Dec 12, (AP): The finger-pointing continues over who started the worst riot in Nicaragua's political campaign and why. Both sides say they are powerless to stop violence that threatens the fairness of upcoming elections.

"What can we do?" said a high-level official of the ruling Sandinista Party. "If we have the police there, they'll claim we're repressing them."

The violence started with stone-throwing melees in early November and culminated Sunday in a riot that left one man dead and more than 25 people injured, many seriously. The

general election is scheduled Feb 25.

The National Opposition Union (UNO) leaders say the riot was part of a Sandinista plot to make campaigning impossible and force them to pull out of a race.

The Sandinistas claim UNO is setting the stage to do just that: pull out of the race and discredit the elections and the government.

The perception that the disturbances could be caused by Sandinista hotheads beyond the control of the party leadership was denied by a Sandinista official.

"We have very good control," the official

## Drunken driving: 'scourge' of 1980s

President George Bush, calling drunken driving "one of the most deadly scourges" of our times, promised Monday to keep up pressure to get intoxicated drivers off the road.

Bush said the public outcry in recent years against drunken drivers has been "one of the most amazing success stories of the 1980s." (AP)

Drunken driving deaths fell 20 per cent in the last six years, although the number of miles travelled rose 25 per cent, Bush said. (AP)

**Sex priestess jailed:** A convicted prostitute who says she has had intercourse with 2,000 men as the high priestess of an "ancient" sex-worshipping church was sentenced yesterday to 360 days in jail.

Marie Ellen Tracy, 46, the self-proclaimed high priestess of the Church of the Most High Goddess, was found by municipal court judge Marion Obera to have violated her probation because of her arrest Nov 14 on suspicion of pandering.

Northwestern University researchers said their laboratory work shows a scalpel that employs a neodymium-yttrium-aluminum-garnet laser may reduce "knife metastasis," the inadvertent transfer of cancer cells from a tumour to healthy tissue during surgery.

Dr Vijay Mehta, chief of surgery at Grant Hospital, and James Radovitsch, an assistant professor at Northwestern's medical school, used the laser scalpel in a series of tests designed to simulate surgery. (UPI)

## US launch rocket:

The military yesterday in Cape Canaveral launched a rocket carrying into orbit a satellite that joins a network of spacecraft which tell US and allied military forces where they are.

The Air Force Delta 2 blazed away from its launch pad at 1:10 pm (1810 GMT) after being postponed one day because of a problem with a fuel tank pressurization system.

Air force Lt. Col. Ron Rand, the launch commander, said the satellite was put into orbit 25 minutes after liftoff. (UPI)

**Iowa captain not certain:** The captain of the USS Iowa has refused to endorse the navy's finding that a gunner's mate likely caused an explosion that killed 47 sailors aboard the battleship.

The service, in a Sept 7 report, concluded that Clayton Hartwig "most likely" caused the blast by inserting some type of detonator bags of gunpowder in one of the ship's 16-inch guns.

"I do not agree or disagree," Capt. Fred Moosally told the Senate Armed Services Committee yesterday in his first public testimony about the incident. (AP)

## Butchers bake Christmas pies:

Butchers in a small English town are baking 1,000 pork pies as a Christmas present for the homeless who sleep on the streets of London.

The butchers of Matlock will also be commemorating the northern town's gift almost 150 years ago of a pie to novelist Charles Dickens.

Dickens, author of "A Christmas Carol" which has come to symbolize the charitable spirit of the season, shared his pie with the capital's poor whose plight he highlighted in many of his other classics.

**Court jails dealer for life:** An Athens court sentenced a Greek merchant to life imprisonment yesterday for selling heroin, the second time in two years a life sentence was passed for drug dealing.

Thomas Demetrios, 49, a fur shop owner, was arrested while selling five kg (11 pounds) of heroin smuggled from Turkey to an undercover policeman.

Two weeks ago four people received life sentences for smuggling heroin into Greece from Turkey, reflecting growing concern over hard drugs. (Reuters)

## Tower of Pisa closed for repairs:

The Leaning Tower of Pisa will be closed to the public soon so that workers can begin repairing the 800-year-old monument, Mayor Giacomo Granchi said yesterday.

Granchi, who announced the decision after a meeting of city officials, said he plans to shut the marble tower for an indefinite period after the Christmas holidays. (AP)

**Italian minister slams delay:** Italy's Environment Minister Giorgio Ruffolo yesterday slammed delays in carrying out an international plan to save the canal city of Venice from a threat of catastrophic flood damage.

He was speaking to delegates from over 30 "cities on water" from all over the world at the start of a three-day United Nations-backed conference to examine the implications of a predicted sea level rise as the result of global warming. (Reuters)

## Latin American

**Naval veterans remember:** More than 150 British and German naval veterans paid homage today to their comrades who died 50 years ago in the World War II battle of the River Plate, fought off the coast of Uruguay.

The meeting ceremony took place on

# General Assembly begins debate on apartheid

UNITED NATIONS, Dec 12, (AP): The General Assembly today begins its first debate on apartheid and is expected to call for dismantling of the system of racial segregation and for sanctions against South Africa.

The assembly annually adopts resolutions condemning South Africa for its apartheid structure, but this is the first time that several days will be devoted to the exercise of demarcation.

More than 120 world leaders and diplomats are expected to address the 159-nation world body, including Zam-

bian President Kenneth Kaunda and Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe today.

Assembly President Maj.-Gen. Joseph Garba of Nigeria said yesterday that he is hoping "for a consensus declaration which would hopefully send a clear message to South Africa about the need to dismantle apartheid completely."

General Assembly resolutions are not binding, unlike Security Council resolutions and they reflect the sentiment of the majority. However, they carry considerable moral and symbolic weight.

The proposed document is entitled, "Declaration on apartheid and its destructive consequences in Southern Africa."

South Africa's Foreign Minister, R.F. Botha, said in a letter yesterday to the secretary-general that he considers the special session and the proposed declaration to be "unquestionably a blatant intervention in the domestic affairs of a member state."

He emphasised that the South African government has taken steps to remove obstacles to negotiation.

Walsh blames CIA

## Bush ducks

WASHINGTON, Dec 12, (UPI): Special prosecutor Lawrence Walsh disclosed that President Bush refused to meet with him to discuss what Walsh believes is US Intelligence Agency interference in Iran-Contra criminal cases.

In a report to Congress, Walsh included a letter, hand-delivered to the White House on Oct 19, asking Bush for a meeting.

The letter complained that Attorney-General Dick Thornburgh and intelligence agencies were causing a "very serious problem" by interfering with efforts to prosecute Joseph Fernandez, who was the top Central Intelligence Agency official in Costa Rica during the major events of the Iran-Contra scandal.

Bush did not respond, but White House Counsel C. Boyden Gray wrote Walsh on Oct. 25 that, "such a meeting would not be appropriate," and told him to work out the disputes with Thornburgh — the cabinet officer Walsh had named as part of the problem.

"Unless different standards for the release of information to the courts are adopted by the intelligence agencies," Walsh wrote Bush, "we face the likelihood that former high officials cannot be tried for crimes related to their conduct in public office."

If the effort to withhold information continues, Walsh warned, "we lose a much more important national value — the rule of law."



Buchi waves to his supporters as he ends his electoral campaign.



Chilean riot police arrest a demonstrator during clashes between government supporters and opposition. (Reuter wirephoto)

Campaigning ends

## Chileans rally

SANTIAGO, Chile, Dec 12, (AP): Campaigning for elections to pick a successor to military President Augusto Pinochet ended with an evening street rally for pro-government candidate Hernan Buchi that drew tens of thousands of supporters.

As the demonstration ended, both supporters and opponents of Buchi skirmished with police, who used water cannon to scatter crowds from the downtown streets. There were no reports of injuries or arrests.

Chileans vote Thursday for a president and congress to replace the right-wing authoritarian government of Pinochet, who has ruled since taking power in a bloody 1973 coup. By law, all politicking had to end yesterday, full 48 hours before election day.

Supporters of Buchi, a 40-year-old former finance minister for Pinochet, packed several blocks on a warm late spring night and cheered as the candidate predicted an upset victory.

"We are going to give them a big surprise," he told the crowd.

Buchi is an underdog to opposition candidate Patricio Aylwin, who holds a commanding lead of about 20 percentage points in pre-election surveys.

Aylwin, a Christian Democrat who is backed by a coalition of 17 centrist and left parties, held his final rally on Sunday, drawing hundreds of thousands of people to the city's biggest park.

Police said they had no immediate estimate of the Buchi rally turnout, which appeared much smaller than that of Aylwin. Buchi's campaign chief, Pablo Barona, declined to give an estimate.

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## Clothes trail leads to Malta

STOCKHOLM, Dec 12, (Reuters): Scottish investigators have gone to Malta in pursuit of a link between clothes belonging to a detained Palestinian and last December's Lockerbie airliner bombing, a Swedish newspaper reported today.

Kvalsposten said the detectives arrived on the island last Friday with bags of clothes seized last month at the apartment of Mohamed Abu Talib, 35, a Palestinian who had been living in the Swedish town of Uppsala.

The Swedish government last week approved transfer of the clothes to British police after a court in Uppsala ruled that the seizure was legally justified. The court noted that Abu Talib was suspected in Britain of murder or complicity in murder.

Investors were showing some of the seized items to a shopkeeper in the Maltese town of Sliema, Kvalsposten said.

According to British and Swedish newspaper reports, the Sliema shopkeeper in November last year sold clothes found one month later among the Lockerbie debris.

The blast-damaged items were believed to have been in the suitcase containing the bomb which blew up the Pan Am jet as it flew over the Scottish town of Lockerbie on Dec 21, killing 270 people.

Swedish police documents show that Abu Talib visited Malta in October and November last year.

Abu Talib is detained pending the verdict in a separate trial in Stockholm in which he and three other Palestinians are accused of bomb attacks against US and Jewish targets in Stockholm, Copenhagen and Amsterdam in 1985 and 1986.

Through his lawyer Sven-Erik Sjogren, Abu Talib has denied any connection with the Lockerbie bomb, and he has not yet been questioned by Scottish investigators.

Swedish police declined all comment on the probe, and a Scottish police spokesman, asked about the Swedish newspaper report, replied: "It has consistently been our policy not to comment on the significance of any of our inquiries."

■ Italy today marked the 20th anniversary of a Milan bomb outrage which spawned more than a decade of bloody terrorism but remains unsolved despite nine court hearings.

Demonstrators marched through Milan and politicians attended ceremonies at a bank near Milan's soaring Gothic cathedral in the Piazza Fontana where a bomb killed 16 people and injured 88 in 1969.

The attack sparked a decade of rightwing bombings and leftwing urban terrorism known as "the years of lead."

The failure to pin blame on anyone has caused widespread outrage and bitterness, reflected in Italian newspapers which today carried headlines like: "Still no truth after 20 years" and "the end of innocence."

"Twenty years ago Piazza Fontana began the most troubled and dark period of our republican history ... after Piazza Fontana both rightwing and leftwing terrorism became more virulent and dangerous," the Milan newspaper Il Giornale said in a front page editorial.

The case involved high level cover-ups by both politicians and corrupt secret service agents who infiltrated provocateurs among left and rightwing terrorist groups.

Stalker enters innocence plea

BURBANK, California, Dec 12, (AP): A man authorities say stalked television talk show host Johnny Carson for two years pleaded innocent to charges of sending tapes and letters threatening to kill Carson unless he paid him \$3 million.

Ken Orelle Gause of Milwaukee entered the plea yesterday in municipal court to one felony count each of mailing terroristic threats and sending threatening letters. He has held in lieu of \$250,000 bail pending a preliminary hearing Thursday.

Gause, 36, was arrested Dec 5 in the lobby of KNBC-TV studios two hours before the taping of Carson's popular "Tonight Show."



A French paratrooper mounts guard under a coconut tree at the temporary base of the French task force on Mayotte Island. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Denard seeks Paris asylum

### Pressure to quit

DZAOUZI, Mayotte Island, Dec 12, (Agencies): White mercenaries who have seized control of the Comoros islands are demanding asylum in France, presenting Paris with an embarrassing political problem, diplomats said today.

The former French colony has been in turmoil since the Nov 26 assassination of President Ahmed Abdallah Abder Rahman. Denard denies reports that he was responsible for Abdallah's death.

French troops have been deployed in the Indian Ocean territories of Reunion and Mayotte, preparing to evacuate the 1,600 French citizens living in the Comoros.

Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement said yesterday that France did not intend to carry out a military intervention but must prepare "for the worst."

"A certain number of powerful means have been put in place to meet any eventualities," Chevenement said during a visit to an air force base at Orleans in central France.

Le Figaro quoted Denard as saying his forces would not shoot first if French soldiers landed, but adding: "There is such a thing as legitimate self-defence. We won't let ourselves be slaughtered like lambs."

The two countries are now directly negotiating for the departure of the men, most of whom are French.

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## Greek scientist finds 11-million-year-old skull

ATHENS, Greece, Dec 12, (AP): A Greek paleontologist said yesterday he had discovered a fossil that may be a missing link in the development of modern man.

The partial skull is between 9 million and 11 million years old, said paleontologist Giorgos Koufos, and appears to link an early primate, such as ramapithecus, with one of modern man's ancestors.

"We believe it represents a transitional period in the development of primitive hominids (two-legged primates) to the more developed ones such as australopithecus," Koufos said in a telephone interview.

Australopithecus is believed to be a direct ancestor of

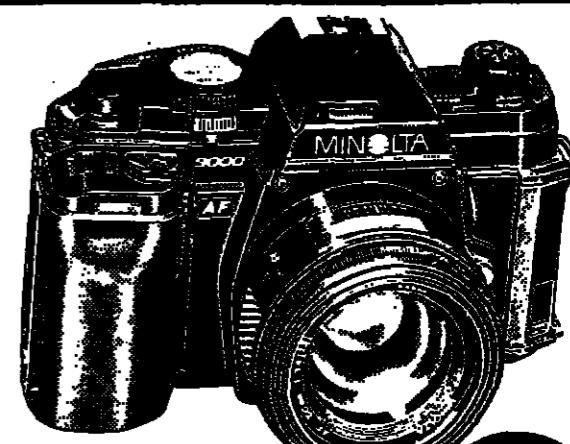
modern man and to have lived 1 to 5 million years ago. Ramapithecus was an ape-like creature but its dental characteristics were different from those of the ape family.

Koufos said that his finding near the village of Kirobori, 24 kilometers (15 miles) from Salonica, "resembles a primitive kind of australopithecus. We believe it is a link in this development."

However, he said the back part of the cranium was missing and the fossilized face needed further study.

Ramapithecus fossils, dating from 12 to 14 million years ago, have been discovered in India, East Africa and Hungary, but, according to Koufos, none tied this primate to modern man's ancestor, the australopithecus.

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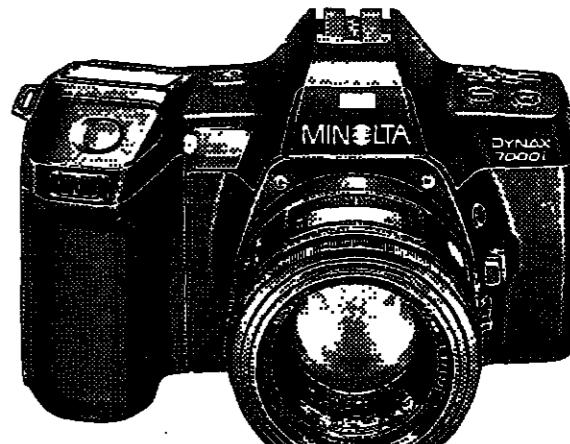


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A soldier rolls barbed wire fence as Czechoslovakia started to dismantle part of its Iron curtain frontier with the West. (Reuter wirephoto)



Saling: criteria

## Czechs debate direct polls

PRAGUE, Dec 12, (Reuter): Czechoslovakia's Parliament met today to debate a proposal for a direct presidential election to give voters a chance to choose a successor to President Gustav Husak, according to Federal Assembly sources.

The 350-member assembly is constitutionally required to elect a new president by Dec 24 to replace hardline Husak who stepped down on Sunday.

A special poll would require a change in the constitution.

The assembly, acting in response to massive protests against one-party rule, voted unanimously on Nov 29 to delete article four of the constitution which guarantees a political monopoly to the Communist Party.

As the assembly met to discuss the proposal put forth by the Communist Party caucus dominating the Parliament, some 2,000 people rallied outside in support of the presidential candidacy of Vaclav Havel.

"From dissident to President in a year" read many banners carried by the crowd.

Havel, 53, is the leading figure of the pro-democracy Civic Forum opposition movement. He was released from prison in May after serving four months for his role in anti-government protests last January.

Thirteen hardline members of the main presidium of the bicameral assembly, including ousted Communist Party chief Milos Jakes and former politburo members Josef Lenart, Alois Indra and Karel Hoffmann, resigned their posts at the start of a joint session.

Civic Forum spokesman Lubos Dobrovsky told a news conference that the movement backed Havel's candidacy, but was unhappy about a direct presidential election although at first it seemed "enticing."

"We don't want further changes in the constitution during this transitional period," he said, adding that the head of state should remain responsible to the Parliament.

Civic Forum said the main priority for the country was the preparation of free democratic elections to the assembly.

Party central committee secretary Ondrej Saling said the party had not committed itself to a single candidate, but several regional party members, including former Prime Minister Ladislav Adamec received major coverage in today's party daily Rude Pravo.

## Le Pen, lacking immunity, faces criminal charges for Nazi pun

PARIS, Dec 12, (AP): France's extreme-right activist Jean-Marie Le Pen faces criminal prosecution for a pun linking a French cabinet minister's name to Nazi death camp ovens, now that the European Parliament has lifted his immunity.

By a vote of 178-91, the 12-nation Parliament agreed yesterday to a request from the French Justice Ministry to allow the President of the National Front Party to be brought to court on charges of slandering a government minister.

# Soviet House rejects debate on party role

## Congress of People's rebuff a victory for Gorbachev, who wants to tackle economic problems first

MOSCOW, Dec 12, (AP): The Soviet Parliament rejected a bid by reformers today to follow several Eastern European countries and a Soviet republic in striking the Communist Party's monopoly on power from the constitution.

The rebuff was a victory for President Mikhail Gorbachev, who wants the Congress of People's deputies to focus on the nation's severe economic problems.

The congress, on the first day of a 10-day session, refused to include on its agenda a discussion of Article 6 of the Soviet constitution, which calls the Communist Party "the leading and

guiding force of Soviet society and the nucleus of its political system."

But the vote total, 1,139 to 839, indicated the idea has gained strength among deputies, nearly 90 per cent of whom are party members. Fifty-six abstained from the vote. The rest of the 2,250 deputies were absent.

Poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko, supporting a move by deputies from the Baltic republics and the reformist inter-regional deputies group, said: "Authority must not be only written into one paragraph, but proven every day."

Later, Yevtushenko called the vote a "noble defeat" in light of the fact that most deputies are party members. "We

got 839 votes," Yevtushenko said. "I didn't expect that."

The Baltic republic of Lithuania last week became the first of the Soviet Union's 15 republics to strike a similar provision from its own constitution, replacing it with one allowing a multiparty system. Legislators there ordered that a law be written in 45 days outlining how other political parties will be registered.

In east Europe, Gorbachev's reforms have paved the way for Hungary, East Germany and Czechoslovakia to end their communist parties' monopolies on power. Yesterday, Bulgaria's leadership proposed similar measures and a

multi-party system.

Gorbachev, in an address before the vote on Article 6, called for a sober debate of the issue, excluding efforts to make political capital out of it.

He noted the party held its dominant role in Soviet society without such a provision until the article was added in a new constitution adopted 12 years ago.

"We cannot start political speculation," he said.

Gorbachev urged the deputies, instead, to concentrate on a government plan to straighten out the country's economic mess.

Key economic laws have been sub-

mitted for public discussion, and Gorbachev said they could be adopted next spring. The 542-member Supreme Soviet legislature debated economic reform laws in its just-completed fall session.

"We need drastic reforms," Gorbachev said of the economy. "So far, there are no improvements in this area, that's why the Supreme Soviet decided that the main question would be discussion of economic reform."

A detailed reform plan was developed by economist Leonid Abalkin to make the Soviet ruble convertible on world markets, jettison money-losing state-run businesses and

fill empty store shelves.

Premier Nikolai Ryzhkov planned to present the general plan later to the parliament, after it voted 1,387-537 today against efforts by reformers to discuss the plan's specifics during the session. Sixty-eight abstained.

Before that vote, however, debates over land and property laws led to an acrimonious exchange between the Soviet president and human rights activist Andrei Sakharov.

Sakharov has urged that the Communist Party's monopoly on power be broken, and last week called for a two-hour general strike on Monday to press that demand. The strike fizzled.

# Baker pledges US support for GDR

## Unprecedented visit to East Berlin

POTSDAM, East Germany, Dec 12, (Reuters): US Secretary of State James Baker made an unprecedented visit to East Germany today to pledge American support to Prime Minister Hans Modrow in dismantling 40 years of Stalinism.

After calling in a speech in West Berlin for a new Europe, Baker matched words with deeds by driving over the Glienecke Bridge, scene of many cold war spy swaps, for a one-hour meeting with East Germany's new reformist prime minister.

He told journalists later: "We talked at quite some length about the importance of this reform effort moving forward in a peaceful and stable way. That is as much as anything else represents the political signal

that we wanted to send by being here today.

"We wanted to let the people of the (East) German Democratic Republic know about our support for the reforms taking place in this country."

Baker said he had told Modrow he was pleased his roundtable talks with opposition groups handled to the setting of a date for elections next May and that he was introducing economic reforms.

Sources in the American party said Modrow had assured Baker the election decision and the process of reform were irrevocable, and that Baker had said Washington was ready to respond to East Germany's economic needs.

The two did not talk about German reunification, the sources added.

Modrow told reporters: "This is satisfying dialogue has begun. I assume that this dialogue will lead to co-operation."

One member of Baker's party said of Modrow: "He was an impressive guy. He has positioned himself as well as he can."

US sources said the unscheduled meeting was arranged following an urgent plea from the Ambassador to East Germany, Richard Barkley, for Baker to demonstrate US support for a reformist government facing grave political and economic problems.

The Americans fear, these sources said, that East Germany could collapse completely, imperilling the whole process of reform in East Europe.

In a launch speech in West Berlin, he had called for the division of Germany to be overcome in peace and freedom as part of the healing of the division of Europe. The formulation was calculated to allay communist fears that West Germany might seek to alter unilaterally the post-war shape of Europe.

Baker's visit has been made possible by dramatic changes in East Germany over the past two months — notably the fall of ten hardline leaders and the opening of the Berlin Wall which has been a major obstacle to good relations since it was built in 1961.

East Germany's new leaders have also shown signs of flexibility on another issue that has antagonised Washington — the communist government's refusal to recognise as Bonn has done, its responsibility as one of the successor states to Hitler's Germany for the holocaust.

The improvement in East-West relations was marked yesterday by the first meeting since 1971 of the ambassadors of the four wartime allies — the US, the Soviet Union, Britain and France — which still have responsibility for divided Berlin.

At that meeting the Russians noted favourably a two-year-old Western initiative to give Berlin a European centre.

Potsdam's role as venue for the Baker-Modrow talks is heavy in symbolism. It was here in the summer of 1945 the victorious big three — the US, the Soviet Union and Britain — met to decide the division of Germany, with tragic consequences that are only now being unravelled.

Baker began his day with breakfast talks in West Berlin with West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who upset Washington by announcing a 10-point plan for achieving German unity without consulting the Western allies.



Baker peers through a hole in the Berlin Wall. (Reuter wirephoto)

## US helps Romania Uranium sale

WASHINGTON, Dec 12:

Despite criticism of Romania's policies, US officials say they will send weapons-grade uranium to the hard-line East bloc country as soon as it comes up with a suitable way to ship the material.

Opponents of the sale, which was approved in 1988, call it "crazy" and say Romania can't be trusted with the dangerous material.

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Baker began his day with breakfast talks in West Berlin with West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who upset Washington by announcing a 10-point plan for achieving German unity without consulting the Western allies.

An uproar followed, with Jewish organisations, civil rights groups and leading politicians denouncing Le Pen's statement.

As a member of the European Parliament, which sits in Strasbourg, France, Le Pen has immunity from prosecution unless the body votes to lift it.

"The exports of the ... fuel met all the requirements of the US Atomic Energy Act," the US State Department said in a statement. Romania has pledged "no nuclear explosive use" for its nuclear programme, it said.

"Appropriate physical security measures are being applied to the highly enriched uranium in Romania and will be applied to any additional nuclear material shipped to that country," the department said.

"It's light of the Romanians' increasing isolation and instability, this is not the time to be sending Romania the means to make an atomic bomb," said Gary Milhollin, director of the Wisconsin project on nuclear arms control, a group that opposes nuclear proliferation.

US officials have harshly criticised the policies of Romanian communist leader Nicolae Ceausescu, but they have not blocked the uranium sale.

Relations between Bucharest and Washington have been "severely strained" recently by Romania's poor human rights record, the State Department said, adding that "we would like to see Romania join its neighbours in moving towards political and economic reforms."

If convicted of slandering a cabinet minister, an obscure section of French press law, Le Pen would face a jail term of six days to three months and a fine of up to 80,000 francs (\$13,000).

Gilbert Collard, lawyer for the group that originally filed charges against Le Pen, the movement against racism and for friendship among peoples, said today he would propose that Le Pen be sentenced to a term of public service scrubbing racist graffiti from the walls of Paris subway stations.

## E. Germany

# Reds admit failure

EAST BERLIN, Dec 12, (AP): East Germany's Communist Party newspaper said today that the country's socialist system has failed, and it expressed support for a closer relationship with West Germany.

The statement in the Communist Party newspaper Neues Deutschland was one of the first official assessments to date of the country's increasingly troubled situation.

"The governmental and administrative socialism has definitely failed as a social system in our country," Neues Deutschland said in proposing a new platform.

The newspaper acknowledged that the "popular revolutionary movement" of the past weeks had led to the scrapping of the old system. Neues Deutschland repeated the communists' promise to work for a new "democratic socialism" within a multi-party system.

During the last few weeks, both East Germany and West Germany have been saying they are interested in closer relations, and nearly every day there are signs of growing ties in business, arts and other areas as well.

But both sides have engaged in a kind of verbal sparring match over what labels to use for their new relationship. East Berlin rejects calls for reunification.

Neues Deutschland called for a "qualified partnership" of both German states as a joint contribution for the future construction of our European house."

The idea of a "common house" has been increasingly used to express the notion of European nations growing closer and more cohesive.

Neues Deutschland rejected any suggestions of resolving the "German question" as a merely national issue involving the two sides.

The issue of reunification appears to be splitting the East German opposition.

More than 200,000 East Germans rallied across the country yesterday, with shooting matches breaking out between supporters and opponents of German reunification in Leipzig and other cities.

The rallies came shortly after the four World War II allies met in West Berlin to discuss the latest developments in the Germanys.

The ambassadors of the United States, the Soviet Union, France and Britain, whose countries still technically have the final say over Berlin, met at the request of the Soviet Union.

The Soviets have increasingly expressed concern over calls for German reunification.

Vyacheslav Kocheshev, the Soviet official at the talks, urged the Western allies to respect "the political and territorial reality of Europe," according to a report by ADN.

ADN said Kocheshev, the Soviet ambassador to East Berlin, made the comments to the official Soviet news agency Tass.

"The Soviet Union, during the four power talks yesterday in West Berlin, strongly emphasised that respect for the territorial and political reality of Europe is necessary," ADN said, in reporting the Soviet ambassador's comments to Tass.

In the past the party won the people with political methods, now it has to do so again," he said.



Vocal silent protest

A young Bulgarian woman holds up a candle during a quiet demonstration. With more peaceful demonstration in the next few days the Bulgarian population

wants to claim for more political reforms in their country. (Reuter wirephoto)

# Reform now, Bulgaria told

## Mladenov bends

SOFIA, Dec 12, (AP): The Communist Party's policy-making central committee continued meeting today, with the push for reforms enlivened by party leader Petar Mladenov's call for free elections.

Aleksandrov said Mladenov proposed that the National Assembly, or Parliament, should schedule "free and democratic elections" not later than May of 1990.

He said dialogue should begin "between the Communist Party and all political forces without exceptions."

Asked when such dialogue could begin, Aleksandrov said "the political process of democratisation and the situation in the country won't wait. Dialogue will begin immediately, as soon as the sides interested in the reform processes sweeping Eastern Europe."

Although Bulgaria has trailed the developments in most other East Bloc countries, Mladenov's proposals were notable in a country that until a month ago was one of the bloc's most solidly hardline.

Mladenov on Nov 10 replaced party chief Todor Zhivkov, who had been in power for 35 years.

As the central committee met yesterday, more than 10,000 people gathered outside party headquarters for a silent candlelight vigil to underline their demands for change. They planned to repeat the vigil twice a week.

When asked if members of independent groups would be represented, Aleksandrov said "the new constitution be prepared by the new democratically elected Parliament, Aleksandrov said.

Mladenov also proposed that party leaders be limited to only two terms in office. According to the party's statutes, a term lasts four years.

He proposed that the term of the current leadership end at the next party congress.

## Walesa call for special powers

WARSAW, Dec 12. (AP): Solidarity leader Lech Walesa today urged granting special economic powers to the government to allow it to bypass Parliament and "quickly and with determination" restructure the economy.

It was not known if Walesa's proposal was supported by the Solidarity-led government of Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki, which is drafting a package of economic reform legislation for presentation to the Sejm, or lower house of Parliament, this weekend.

The special powers would have to be authorised by Parliament.

"The situation in the country is getting worse. Time is running out. The reserve of social trust is nearly exhausted," Walesa said in a statement issued from Solidarity union headquarters in Gdansk.

Legislative debate is slowing down the adoption of laws necessary to solve the country's economic crisis, Walesa said.

The powers would apply to restructuring the economy, changing the property system, ending monopolies of state-run and co-operative enterprises, and reforming the tax and accounting system, banking and local government structures, Walesa said.

The Solidarity leader said he was "fully aware how controversial this proposal is. But I am forced to make it because of the ever-worsening situation in the country and the growing impatience of society."

He said the powers should be set by Parliament for a specified period and for specific areas of activity. The Sejm and Senate could then work "quietly" on longer term laws, while retaining the right to correct acts of the government, he said.

One effect of such powers should be to lessen the influence of the Communist Party and its formerly allied parties in the Parliament in overseeing economic policy.

Mazowiecki's government is dominated by Solidarity, whose members hold 12 seats in the 24-member cabinet, while the communists have four.

In the Sejm, however, Solidarity has 35 per cent of the seats, with the communists holding 37 per cent.

## Vatican negotiator

VATICAN CITY, Dec 12. (Reuter): Pope John Paul appointed an Australian archbishop and veteran diplomat today as his main negotiator with the Russian orthodox church over the thorny issue of Ukrainian Catholics.

Archbishop Edward Cassidy, 65, the Pope's deputy secretary of state for the past 17 months, was named to head the Vatican's Bureau for Christian Unity, a key position in Roman Catholic attempts to improve relations with the Orthodox church.

The Vatican said the Pope had accepted the resignation of Dutch Cardinal Johannes Willebrands, 80, a major church figure who headed the Christian Unity Department for 20 years.

In a reference to relations with the Orthodox church, Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said the Pope had chosen Cassidy, who has held many diplomatic posts, "in view of future developments in ecumenical activity."

Former Soviet leader Josef Stalin suppressed the Ukrainian Catholics, in 1946.

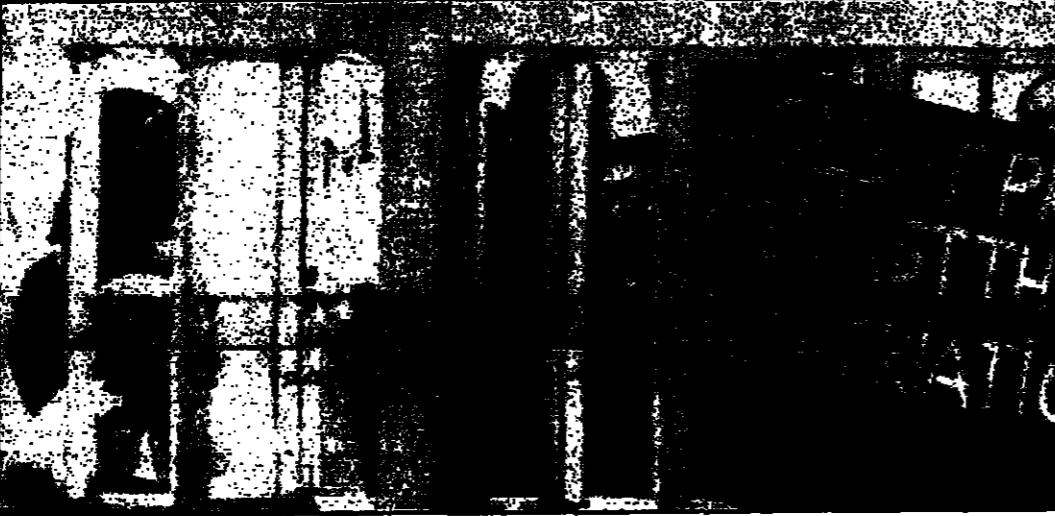
# Boat people repatriation begins



A Vietnamese refugee (wearing headband) is assisted by a corrections department official as he leaves Phoenix House detention centre in Hong Kong.



Hong Kong police prepare to enter a Vietnamese refugees holding centre with riot gear to collect refugees.



A Vietnamese woman cries at the window of the Phoenix House detention centre in Hong Kong as an official (centre) talks to another refugee before leaving for airport. (Reuter wirephoto)

**Bing Crosby's son dies at 51:** Lindsay Crosby, son of the late entertainer Bing Crosby, has been found dead in his suburban home.

The 51-year-old Crosby, found Monday afternoon, apparently shot himself in the head, authorities said. An autopsy was scheduled for Tuesday.

A friend discovered the body on a bedroom floor in the home in Calabasas, a small-caliber rifle was found nearby, said Los Angeles county Sheriff's deputy Bill Linnemeyer.

Lindsay Crosby was youngest of four sons of Bing and Dixie Lee Crosby, who died of cancer in 1952. Bing Crosby died at 73 of a heart attack in 1977.

**Taiwanese dissident indicted:** Leading dissident Hsu Hsin-Liang has been indicted on charges of entering Taiwan illegally, court officials reported.

According to the radio report, the engine and three cars of a passenger train travelling from Sofia to the port city of Varna were derailed. (AP)

**Political prisoners released:** Thirteen political prisoners have been released and the sentences of all other political detainees reduced by one year, the official radio Mauzuras announced.

Those released include 12 Black Mauritians and the chief of the pro-independence party, Mohamed Yehdi Ould Breidjelli, the radio reported last night. (AP)

**Hong Kong to ban:** Members of a Hong Kong-China committee agreed today to ban political organisations with foreign links in Hong Kong after it returns to Chinese rule in 1997, local press reports said.

The reports said the committee drafting the post-1997 constitution for Hong Kong agreed on the proposal at a meeting in the southern Chinese city of Canton. (AP)

**Japan bans demonstrations:** The government has outlawed public demonstrations and warned that police have been given orders to use force if necessary to enforce the ban.

The ban was announced by radio last evening following a march by an estimated 40,000 demonstrators calling for President Mitterrand's resignation. The march took place in Cotonou, the economic capital of Benin.

There were reports of violence and one death at similar demonstrations in Ouidah, Abomey and the capital city of Porto Novo. (AP)

**Japan to honour Shultz:** Former US Secretary of State George Shultz will receive a Japanese decoration during his four-day visit to Japan tomorrow, it was officially announced in Tokyo today.

It is expected that Shultz will receive the decoration from Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu when they meet tomorrow. (Kuma)

**February.**

The handing down of political constituencies to relatives is widespread, especially among lower house members of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

About 40 percent, or 117 of the LDP's 296 lower house members are second- or third-generation parliamentarians. The lower chamber has 512 members.

Only about 12 legislators from the opposition parties hold inherited constituencies.

"A class of politicians is shaping up," said politics expert Takashi Inoguchi of Tokyo University. "No doubt it is gradually becoming what looks like Samurai lords in feudal Japan."

Seven of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's 22 cabinet members are second-generation legislators, including Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama.

More constituents will be passed on in the next lower house election, expected in

February.

Of some 20 senior LDP lawmakers who have announced they will retire at the end of the current term, 11 have marked their sons or close relatives as successors.

They include former Prime Ministers Takeo Fukuda, 84, and Zenko Suzuki, 78, whose supporters have already endorsed their eldest sons as the next candidates.

Feudal succession has also been adopted by medical doctors, said political analyst Kaoru Okano at Meiji University.

"Like medical doctors who have to invest a lot of money to own a hospital, politicians need huge funds to be elected to parliament and it is impossible for them to recover all their investments during their political careers," Okano said.

Feudal lords were succeeded by their descendants because of authority, while present-day parliamentarians inherit power mainly through considerations of money."

"But in reality... a leadership class has been emerging," Kamishima said.

**Deputies name sons as successors**

TOKYO, Dec 12. (Reuter): Japan's feudal system is alive and well — especially in politics.

Until the mid-19th century, sovereignty over local fiefdoms was handed down from Samurais to their sons.

In the contemporary version of hereditary rule, many members of Japan's Parliament now designate their sons or close relatives as successors when they retire.

The legatee inherits not only sources of political funds but the politician's network of supporters, which plays a vital role as a ballot-collecting machine.

One aim of introducing democracy to Japan after World War Two was to give everyone an equal chance to climb the ladder of success, said Jiro Kamishima of Tokyo's Ritsumei University, an expert on modern political thought.

"But in reality... a leadership class has been

emerging," Kamishima said.

## Bouquets and brickbats for Hong Kong

HONG KONG, Dec 12. (Reuters): Hong Kong's decision to send Vietnamese boat people home against their will has been both holly condemned and defended.

In the early hours today Hong Kong flew an initial group of 51 men, women and children — many weeping — back to Hanoi, apparently without using physical force.

## UK defends repatriation

Return of 40,000 to be negotiated

(Continued from Page 1)

was "not something any of us is enjoying," but added, "we have undertaken from the Vietnamese government that these people will not be punished or victimized in any way."

The United States today urged Britain to halt the forcible repatriation of Vietnamese refugees from Hong Kong, an action President George Bush's spokesman described as unacceptable.

State Department deputy spokesman Richard Boucher said Washington regretted the British decision to repatriate the refugees.

"We believe British authorities should continue to grant asylum to all those persons from Vietnam who seek it in accordance with the comprehensive plan of action adopted in Geneva in June by the United States, the United Kingdom, Vietnam, the ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) countries and others," Boucher told reporters.

"The United States deeply regrets the forcible repatriation of Vietnamese asylum seekers from Hong Kong to Vietnam," Boucher said.

"We believe the British government should not proceed further with mandatory repatriation from Hong Kong," he added.

The government said there would be no more deportations until a debate in parliament next Tuesday when its policy is expected to be assailed again by the opposition.

Amnesty International spokesman Robert Reoch said: "The whole idea of using the detention on asylum-seekers as a deterrent to other asylum-seekers is fundamentally abhorrent."

The Labour Party has described the enforced repatriations as "a terrible violation" and the small Liberal Democratic Party described them as "an act of indecent shame."

Human rights campaigners were angered by the circumstances of the operation, conducted in darkness by police in riot gear who outnumbered the weeping deportees.

Allegations that the police were armed were denied by Thatcher, who was accused by opposition of being tyrannical in her attitude.

Thatcher said the influx of Vietnamese who were economic rather than political refugees had

been reversed.

Hun Sen said he was prepared to discuss the

United Nations interim authority in Cambodia as part of a settlement of the war.

But the official Cambodian News Agency, SPK, in a report seen in Bangkok today, quoted Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen as repeating that the United Nations could have a role in the peace process only if it left vacant the General Assembly seat now held by guerrilla groups opposing him.

Hun Sen said he was prepared to discuss the

Australian proposal at informal peace talks in Indonesia.

No date has been set for the talks, which Vietnam, Hun Sen and the guerrilla leaders have agreed to attend.

It was unclear if Hun Sen was modifying his previous position that his government, which Vietnam installed after a late 1978 invasion, oversee a general election after a ceasefire. The guerrillas have insisted that a transitional administration comprising Hun Sen's administration and the three guerrilla groups govern until elections are held.

As for China, Bush said he was

"very pleased today in the wake of General Scowcroft's visit to notice that the Chinese Foreign Ministry stated that they would not sell missiles to any Middle East countries."

He added that Scowcroft had raised the issue in his weekend talks with Chinese leaders, and the Chinese made their announcement before the national security adviser and Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger had returned to Washington.

Bush called the Chinese statement "a very sound development," although he had received the same assurances during a trip to China last February.

Even as Bush spoke, congressional Democrats stepped up their criticism of his actions. Senate majority leader George Mitchell condemned the US overture as "embarrassing kowtowing to the Chinese government."

"The administration supports human rights in its words. It does not do so in its deeds.... These actions make a mockery of our profession of concern for human rights and are inconsistent with our stated ideals," Mitchell said.

Bush said he had sent his top aides to Beijing to discuss the results of the recent US-Chinese summit off Malta with the Chinese leaders.

"I do not want to isolate the Chinese people. I don't want to hurt the Chinese people," he said.

"I realise the difficulty of this relationship but I don't want to make it any worse," he said, referring to the strains following the suppression of the pro-democracy movement.

He said he was "going to keep looking for ways to find common ground" with China.

The President made no mention of Fang Lizhi, the prominent Chinese dissident who has been given sanctuary from Chinese authorities in the American embassy in Beijing.

Bush's Press Secretary, Marvin Fitzwater, indicated he was unhappy that the Scowcroft-Eagleburger visit had been portrayed in the Chinese press as evidence of US-Chinese reconciliation.

"I probably would have dictated a little different coverage," he said.



## Rights week

■ President Bush proclaimed this week as "human rights week."

In the proclamation, Bush also set aside Dec 15 as the "Bill of rights day" and cited the guarantees it provides for freedom of speech, of the press, of religion and association.

Speaking of the safeguarding of individual liberty and fundamental human rights, Bush said: "Our commitment to this obligation is unfaltering. So, this week, as we give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy as Americans, let us also renew our determination to value and protect the rights of others."

## Bush defends visit to Beijing

WASHINGTON, Dec 12. (Agencies): President George Bush has defended his decision to send two top aides to Beijing over the weekend, and he said he would "keep looking for ways to find common ground" with Chinese leaders.

Bush stressed that the trip by National Security Adviser Scowcroft and a top State Department aide did not amount to normalisation of relations. He said those who support otherwise "simply do not know what they are talking about."

Bush, who has been criticised by majority opposition Democrats in Congress for sending the two senior advisers to China, said he took the action because.

The President made his comments to a group of editorial writers gathered in an auditorium across the street from the White House.

He opened the session with a review of his first year as President. Citing an improved US-Soviet relationship and other developments, he said, "I'm not overly satisfied but I think generally the first year has gone pretty well."

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## Municipal committee endorses frontier towns: report

### Contractors strictly supervised

A REPORT on the construction of frontier towns within the areas of Abdali and Salmi submitted by Fahd Al Hasawi, chief engineer of Kuwait Municipality has been endorsed by the Municipal Affairs Committee.

The report identified initial plans for building the proposed frontier town and defined sites and areas of the project.

The committee's endorsement stressed the need for co-ordination with relevant authorities regarding the distance these towns would have to be located from the frontier lines. Further it also requested determining the feasibility of relocating the proposed industrial area within the proposed frontier town to be located to the

east of the main Abdali Road, and the industrial area for Salmi frontier town to be located to the south of the main Salmi road.

All facilities proposed for relocation should be clearly reported and submitted to the committee for making provisions for cleanliness of the residential towns.

#### Maintenance

Meanwhile, the director of maintenance department at the Public Works Ministry Eid Al Khalidi has said that his department is responsible for maintaining public roads and squares, maintaining the buildings of state establishments and ministries, maintaining the main roads and flyovers, paving the roads, marking the

streets, paving temporary roads for farms at Abdali and Waifa, installing and maintaining the guiding boards at the roads and maintaining of pavements.

Khalidi pointed out that the nature of maintenance projects carried out by the department makes it difficult to carry out the job without facing problems. "We are working in crowded places and public roads so these projects cannot be carried out without the co-operation of the other relevant authorities," the official explained.

#### Supervision

The maintenance department takes strict procedures against companies that do not carry out their work according to

the specified conditions. The department's engineers continually supervise the work of contractors and extends them every assistance and further acts as a catalyst between national companies and contractors, the official said.

The Ministry of Public Works began work to develop its administrative staff after making studies that lasted for two years and have resulted in the expansion of activities and responsibilities of the ministry. According to these studies priorities have been allocated, jobs evenly delegated and new expertise incorporated to streamline operational functions of the different departments of the ministry, Khalidi said.

## Ministers to discuss maids at next meet

THE Council of Ministers will reportedly discuss in its next session a number of proposals on the phenomenon of maids in the country, and their related social repercussions.

Sources close to the council have disclosed that some of these proposals dealt with the need to reduce the number of maid recruiting offices, particularly unauthorised ones. In the latter, owners employed crooked techniques in running their unlawful businesses, which had resulted in a leap in the number of these offices to over 200.

The sources pointed out that a law was in the pipeline to regulate the operation of these offices, whereby the business would have to be controlled by the Ministries of Interior, Commerce and Industry and Social Affairs and Labour.

#### Recommendations

The sources added that the Council would discuss recommendations on how to reduce the number of the maid employed by one family. These would include the imposition of duties on those wishing to make use of more than one maid, besides exploring the financial situation of the family wishing to hire household help to prevent potential financial problems.

Sources also said that the maid problems received top-level concern amidst reports that the number of housemaids currently in employment reached 152,000, 80 per cent of whom operated in homes which constituted a grave jeopardy on the young.

Sources said that a special committee would be formed from ministries to carry out intensive studies on the reasons leading to the increasing reliance on hired household, and undertake to raise public awareness on the grave consequences of dependence on maids.



All receives Egyptian envoy

The Governor of Jabra Sheikh Ali Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah received in his office yesterday Egypt's Ambassador to Kuwait Saeed Mahmoud Refaat.

Talks during the meeting centred on issues of common concern.

## Students bemoan problems at Technical Studies College

A NUMBER of students at the Technical Studies College have complained that they are faced with several problems within the premises of the college and added that the authorities seem to be totally unaware of these issues.

Interviewed by a local daily, Mousa said that the college buildings are old and could collapse at any time, meals provided at the college cafeteria are substandard and instruments in the laboratories are obsolete.

#### Language

Students with recreational and social services on campus.

Mutlaq Minaier Al Ajmi indicated that the general secondary graduates levels in English is at most very poor. He proposed that newly admitted students should be offered more intensive English classes to improve their abilities. He explained that some of the courses for which he registered during the current academic term have no teachers as yet.

#### Social allowances

Mubarak Al Fajri pointed out that the main problem encountered by most students at the authority is not being able to work. The issue becomes vital when viewed in the light that the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training has currently cancelled social allowances and assistance to new students.

He proposed that students should be given the opportunity to work on their own time and added that he hoped that the English level tests would be re-implemented again at the college. He also commented that students car parking lots are far away from the college campus and lecture halls and there is a shortage in the number of parking spaces. Additionally, there is lack of transportation facilities from the authority housing to the college campus, Fajri said.

Students added that they were totally surprised with the decision to cancel social assistance of new students and to cancel English language level tests for admission to the current academic year.

Wadhab Mousa said the new students attend lectures in premises that lack air-conditioning and have uncomfortable seats and desks. He added that the Technical Studies College does not provide

students with recreational and social services on campus.

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## BAHRAN DIGEST

## Autumn Fair a grand success

BAHRAN'S Autumn Fair, one of the major popular events held every year in the Island, has proved to be a resounding success in view of the record number of visitors as well as exhibitors.

According to the organisers, Arabian Exhibition Management (AEM), the eleven day fair which was just concluded lived up to the expectations of all concerned by attracting more than 100,000 visitors and bettering last year's attendance.

The event staged at the Exhibition Centre proved to be a popular venue for a large number of nationals, expatriates as well as visitors from other Gulf states since it commenced on Nov 30. More than 200 local companies participated in the Autumn Fair '89 offering reduced prices on most goods on display and sale. An extensive range of household appliances, textiles, foodstuffs, electronic goods, books and other services were available among a host of interesting items at sole prices.

#### Entertainment

The fair lived up to its aim of focusing particularly on the concept of family entertainment by offering a number of vintage entertainment programme featuring music and dance depicting different nationalities and cultures.

Performers included Country and Western music groups, Arabic artists and a popular Egyptian folklore troupe flown in especially for the event. Competitions for children were also organised on a large scale including a disco dancing competition, a talent competition and a funny face contest for toddlers.

The success of the fair was also possible because of the cancellation of the annual sale which was originally scheduled to take place about the same time as the Autumn Fair. Traders capitalised on this good fortune by offering considerable bargain offers on a variety of goods.

Radio Bahrain, the Island's English language radio station, sustained the keen interest in the fair, by broadcasting live commentary including random interviews with both visitors and traders everyday during the duration of the event.

Meanwhile, a local name was chosen for the mascot of the fair, a bear. The bear which proved a popular figure particularly among children was named 'Dabdeeb Al Habeeb,' 'the happy bear.' The name was suggested by a national, Ahmed Abdul Asheer Hussain, who received BD100 for the winning name.

The Car and Boat Show coincided with the Autumn Fair '89. Although the vintage car display did not enjoy the success as the fair, it attracted admirers of quality cars and boats.

## Public suggestions welcome: Madhahka

CHAIRMAN of the Capital Governorate Council, Abdul Rahman Al Madhahka has said that the establishment of governorate councils shows the great concern paid by the government towards projects and construction. He indicated that governorate council may expand its authority and develop to become the right arm to establishments and ministries.

Interviewed by a local daily, he said that members of the Capital Governorate Council are scattered at area 'Divaniyas' to hear residents' complaints. He urged citizens to co-operate and to come forward with suggestions and proposals. He said that the council at least requires a six months period to begin effective plans after conducting the necessary studies.

He indicated that the Capital Governorate Council has already held three meetings during the last month. The first meeting was held upon the

invitation of the Capital Governor, Sheikh Jaber Al Abdullah Al Jaber Al Sabah to get acquainted with council members. A special committee was formed to review the formation of other committees. During the second meeting, the committee presented its suggestions in addition to other proposals put forward by some council members.

Also a number of complaints

were received from Capital residents. He added that four committees were formed during the third meeting namely, the educational and social affairs committee, the planning and studies committee, the complaints and general services committee and the environment and public utility protection committee.

He pointed out that a special office was established at the council general secretariat to receive citizens' complaints. He stressed that the governor office is also open to directly receive all complaints and proposals.

LUFTHANSA German Airlines launched a new service to Pakistan from Bahrain with non-stop flights every week to Karachi last week.

Speaking at a press conference at the Sheraton hotel, John Nielson, the airline's district manager, commented that Lufthansa views Pakistan as a new market which has excellent prospects of growth for both sides. The new direct flights will provide an opportunity to the large number of Pakistani expatriates in Bahrain's different choice with a high quality product, he said.

The non-stop flight to Karachi is Lufthansa's only direct flight to any destination from Bahrain after Frankfurt.

Rais Khan, outgoing sales manager of Lufthansa who is being transferred to Karachi after 5 years in the island, said that passengers

particularly Pakistani businessmen may also avail of a circle fare which is also under offer and includes Bahrain-Karachi-Frankfurt-Bahrain sector. This package he added may be particularly beneficial to those who may wish to combine a vacation cum business trip in this sector.

Lufthansa's new direct flights to Karachi from Bahrain are operational on Wednesdays and Thursdays. According to Nielson the fares for Lufthansa's 3-class service to Karachi will remain the same as other major competitors in the island. The German airline is operating Airbus 310s on this new sector. About 100 seating capacity will be available extra for passengers bothways on this market.

Meanwhile, Lufthansa, according to its district manager survived the 'bad times' of the last few years here which saw a major

price-war and recession, and enjoyed a very satisfactory performance in 1989.

Lufthansa has four 'independent' markets in the Gulf via Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Kuwait and Bahrain.

Lufthansa currently operates to about 170 destinations world-wide. It has recently acquired the services of the 'Super Jumbo' B747-400s.

Meanwhile speaking about the future development, Nielson commented that in view of rapid course of events in Germany and the forthcoming single European market in 1992, Lufthansa is expected to considerably expand its European as well as its domestic flight network.

Talking to Arab Times, Nielson said that the German reunification take place this century, Lufthansa will inevitably be merged with the East German carrier.

## Incorrigible offenders deported, says Hajji

### Higher traffic council to be formed

MANY expatriates have been deported from Kuwait for committing more than three serious traffic violations such as speeding and reckless driving, passing the red light and transporting passengers in private cars in exchange for money.

The Ministry of Public Works began work to develop its administrative staff after making studies that lasted for two years and have resulted in the expansion of activities and responsibilities of the ministry. According to these studies priorities have been allocated, jobs evenly delegated and new expertise incorporated to streamline operational functions of the different departments of the ministry, Hajji said.

Speaking on this issue, Brigadier Abdul Hamid Al Hajji, director-general of the General Traffic Administration (GTA) explained that the GTA also takes serious cognisance of violations committed by citizens and expatriates about expiry dates of their car books. Renewal can be also done through the postal service, he said.

In this respect, the GTA has begun an experiment of the service by selecting a sample of 20,000 citizens and expatriates living in different housing areas.

Local insurance officials have agreed to extend their co-operation to facilitate these procedures, Hajji said.

#### Postal notice

The service will also include the renewal of the driving licence and these services will be carried out in co-operation with the computer centre of the ministry.

The streamlining of these services is intended to reduce pressure on the traffic departments and save time and efforts of citizens and expatriates.

Hajji said that the Higher Traffic Council will be formed at the earliest opportunity and will then be responsible for all issues relating to traffic in the country.

Amendments to the traffic law are still being studied by relevant authorities and recommendations will be submitted to the Council of Ministers, the official said.

The opening of driving schools in future is intended to facilitate a larger number of exceptional categories benefitting from istimara, Hajji said.

Hajji disclosed that those who have their istimara for a period of over three years, or have failed in their driving tests several times, will have their istimara cancelled.

He clarified that those falling in the category of exempted persons should apply for new istimara.

He added that renewal of driving licence of expatriates will be in accordance with the period of

validity of their residence permit.

Hajji pointed out that the GTA began the implementation of traffic notification systems through the postal service. The new service aims at notifying citizens and expatriates about expiry dates of their car books.

Renewal can be also done

through the postal service, he said.

The municipality has contracted with a contracting company to study the project of the central control of traffic signals and to submit their recommendations.

The first stage of the project is expected to begin by the mid of the coming year, Hajji said.

He added that the Ministry of Public Works is the body that is responsible for determining places of traffic signals at roads and disclosed that the signals presently fixed at roads of Kuwait City are temporary.

These will be replaced on completion of the project on the 1st Ring Road and Soor Road, he said.

Hajji pointed out that the GTA will open a branch at the Ministries Complex to renew the car books and pay fines for violations committed by employees working in the complex. Further, a branch is intended to be opened inside the Second Hand Cars Market (Haraj) to transfer ownership of cars and renew the car books. The branches will be opened sometime during February of next year. The GTA is studying with the Computer Centre the feasibility of issuing of a new form of car book that is smaller than the present one and is to be similar to the driving licence.

The GTA will notify owners of cars about the expiry date of their car books. However, if the car is out of Kuwait and the book expires during this period, the

owner will be liable to pay a fine.

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# Sharp drop in new visas issued

## Only 3,698 work permits in November

THE number of work permits issued last month dropped very sharply compared to the previous month. The monthly statistics of the public relation department of the Interior Ministry said that only 3,698 work permits had been issued during the month of November by all four immigration departments of the various governorates. In October, as many as 10,282 work permits were issued. The main cause of the drop is attributed to a big drop in the number of work permits issued to maids during November. Maids in October got

over 8,000 work permits, totalling over 80 per cent of the work permits issued during that month.

However, in November slightly more than 3,000 work permits have been issued to maids. Similarly, work permits issued to employees in the private sector also sharply dropped to about 25 per cent of the number issued in October. A total of 1,613 work permits for private sector labourers were issued during October while only 411 were issued during November.

Issuance of visit visas also sharply drop-

ped in November compared to October. In November, only 5,523 visit visas were issued while 10,679 visit visas were issued in October. The main cause for this drop is attributed to a sharp drop in businessmen visas from 7,600 in October to only 2,694 visas in November. At the same time, the number of family visit visas slightly increased from 2,525 in October to 2,697 in November. In all, 5,523 visit visas were issued during the month of November which also included 114 government visit visas and 18 visas for medical treatment.

The four immigration departments in the country issued last month 11,838 new residences, almost similar to the previous month. But 7,103 residences were cancelled during the same month. The departments also renewed 28,584 residences and issued 632 temporary residences. Sponsorships of 5,589 persons were transferred during the last month, while the departments opened 1,113 files for new sponsors. The Immigration Departments also issued 1,033 permits allowing expatriates to stay over six months outside Kuwait.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### New envoys

KUWAIT, Dec 12, (Kuna): HH the Amir will receive at 11 am tomorrow at Bayan Palace credentials of the ambassadors of Bhutan and Niger to Kuwait.

### Forged ties

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 12, (Kuna): HH the Amir of Kuwait hopes close ties can be forged between his country and Malaysia, and the Selangor state in particular, the Sultan of Selangor said today.

HH the Amir also praised Selangor for its staunch practice of Islam and the building of many mosques for the faithful, said the Sultan, who made a four-day visit to Kuwait which ended Sunday.

The Sultan and his consort, Tengku Ampuan returned here today after the visit and a short holiday in London.

The Sultan told newsmen on arrival that HH the Amir had described the Sultan Salimuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Mosque in Shah Alam, 25 km from here, as one of the most beautiful in the world.

The state mosque known as "the Blue Moscow" was built at the cost of \$60 million in March last year.

### Premier receives

KUWAIT, Dec 12, (Kuna): HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah today received in his diwan at Bayan Palace Electricity and Water Minister Hamoud Abdallah Al Rabbani, State Minister for Services Affairs Issa Mohammad Al Mazidi, and the advisor at HH the Amir's office Mohammad Suliman Syed Ali.

HH also received the Hawalli Governor Abdul Latif Mohamed Al Barjas, chairman of Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources Sheikh Ibrahim Al Duaij and Major-General Mohammad Abulaziz Al Bader.

### Information minister

KUWAIT, Dec 12, (Kuna): Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Al Mubarak Al Hamad Al Sabah today received in his office the chairman of Ahmad's government council, Ali Fahed Al Adwani and the council's members Mubarak Razi Al Fahmeh Al Azmi, Hmoud Hemaid Al Rashid, Fadiel Khalifa Al Dabous, and Salah Al Jeir.

Sheikh Jaber later received George Ibrahim Al Khouri, editor-in-chief of Ashabka magazine which is published in Lebanese "Dar Al Sayyad" publishing house.

### Khalaf received

KUWAIT, Dec 12, (Kuna): HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah yesterday received at his diwan in Bayan Palace member of the central committee of the Palestinian national liberation movement (Fatah) Salah Khalaf "Abu Ayad."

**Anglican archbishop**

KUWAIT, Dec 12, (Kuna): HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah today received at his diwan in Bayan Palace the Archbishop of the Anglican Church in Cyprus and the Gulf John Brown.

The meeting was attended by British Ambassador to Kuwait Peter Hincks.

### Sabah receives

KUWAIT, Dec 12, (Kuna): Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Sabah today received Finance Minister Jassem Mohammed Al Khorafi and Justice and Legal Affairs Minister Dhari Abdullah Al Othman.

**Interior visit**

GCC airport officials a visit yesterday to the Computer Centre of the Ministry of Interior, the public relations department of the ministry reported.

The delegation was received at the centre by the director-general, Abdulkareem Jaafar who explained the role and tasks of the centre and who co-ordinated the delegation to the centre and the ministry's various departments.

The delegation later visited the special forces camp to witness a practical training.



**Farwaniya exchange inspected**

Communications Minister Abdulla Al Sharhan yesterday inspected the Farwaniya telephone exchange during the project. Undersecretary of the ministry and other senior officials accompanied the minister on his tour.

## Unicef report

# Smallpox immunisation in Gulf almost realised

RIYADH, Dec 12, (Kuna): Most of the Arab-Gulf states have realised more than 80 per cent of child immunisation programme, according to a report.

"The smallpox immunisation campaign by the United Nations Children Fund (Unicef) on the occasion of the 43rd anniversary of its establishment.

Latest statistics until mid-1989 show that the percentage of child immunisation for small pox reached 84 per cent in Saudi Arabia, 87 per cent in Bahrain and 92 per cent in Kuwait.

Referring to the state of the world's children, the report gives an in-depth account in terms of basic indicators, nutrition, health, education, demographic indicators, economic indicators, women, less populous countries and the rate of progress.

### Trends

On present trends, over 100 million under-fives will die in the 1990s and many times that number will grow up malnourished, the report said.

The prospect of a world summit for children, the new convention on the rights of the child and practical advances such as the near achievement of universal child immunisation, all represent progress towards the principle of protecting health and

development of the great majority of the world's children - are an affordable cost.

There are six major low-cost opportunities for protecting lives and health of children in the developing world in the 1990s:

More than half of all child deaths and malnutrition can be attributed to vaccine-preventable disease, dehydration, and pneumonia all can be prevented and treated at low cost with mobilisation of today's new communication capacity, the report added.

Combined with advances in knowledge, on nutrition, and on the importance of breast-feeding and birth spacing, these breakthroughs could save the lives of at least 50 million children and protect the normal growth of many millions more, the report said.

The report calls for more progress towards the great goals of food, water, health care and education for all.

It urges increases in aid should be offered in support of the developing nation's own plans for specific reductions in absolute poverty and measurable improvements in the survival, health and nutrition of children.

## Call to improve system

### No duplication in education: Haroun

#### Buildings and facilities

buildings and facilities whether at the university or the authority.

He added that the primary function of the ministry is to co-ordinate efforts between the Kuwait University and the authority's various institutes, pointing out that a proposed establishment of a special council to undertake this task is being considered.

He disclosed that certain subjects were difficult to Arabicise and that there were committees formed at the Gulf-level for the purpose to Arabicise certain science courses.

#### Working plan

Meanwhile, the assistant undersecretary for planning and development at the Ministry of Education Dr Rasheed Al Hamad has called on all heads of departments working under him to further increase efforts to rectify the educational system.

#### Feedback

He said it was not practically possible to collect the views of the teaching staff on the new higher education draft law. The project has been routed to the relevant authorities for opinion feedback and the final result would

become known in three or four years time, Haroun said.

He added that children of the teaching staff operating at the authority had the right to join its various colleges and centres, but whether or not their right included the university and related facilities, was still being considered.

He disclosed that certain subjects were difficult to Arabicise and that there were committees formed at the Gulf-level for the purpose to Arabicise certain science courses.

#### Definition

He said during the monthly meeting with departments heads that each department should prepare a working programme to cover the whole year. The ministry was currently preparing its five-year plan which required full co-operation between the Planning Department and all other relevant departments, he commented.

He said that work requirements in certain departments needed more personnel and that emphasis in the provision of needed personnel must be laid on quality rather than quantity.

He pointed out that participation in symposia conferences and joint meetings provided ample opportunities to senior officials to cultivate their skills and enrich their expertise, particularly where a number of countries were involved.

#### Exercise

Three ships were observed passing near Abu Musa island, heading toward the strait that separates Iran from the Arabian peninsula.

At normal cruising speed of 25 to 30 knots (30-36 mph) the New Jersey would need about six hours to pass through the 35-kilometre (22-mile) wide Hormuz into the Gulf of Oman.

Iran, meanwhile, said its armed forces were conducting a fourth day of naval manoeuvres, with a mock amphibious landing on an island in the Gulf of Oman.

The Leahy was going home after a tour of duty in the Gulf. The Sterett is part of the New Jersey's battle group, currently assigned to the Indian Ocean.

At 4 pm local time (0100 GMT) the

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**Premier chairs committee meeting**

HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah yesterday conferred with members of the committee responsible for following up the implementation of special measures on boosting the country's economic situation.

During the meeting, the conferees reviewed reactions and positive indicators on the various fields toward the recommendations included in the joint economic report.

HH the Crown Prince and Premier had emphasised during his meeting the significance of co-operation with all parties and sectors concerned and also

taking into consideration the proposals and remarks, which arise during the phases of application of the reports.

Sheikh Saad also reviewed some of the aspects related to implementing the recommendations on upgrading the effectiveness of the difficult debt clearing programme.

Closing the meeting, HH wished the committee all success in its mission, while head and members of the committee pledged to do their utmost in serving their country.

# Aids law to protect society, says Awadi

## Violators to be penalised

MINISTER of Planning and Acting Minister of Health, Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi announced yesterday that the Aids law to be issued very shortly is intended to protect society from the killer disease. He stressed that the new law will solve all the legal issues and conflicts and will determine the nature of the relation between the Aids patients and society. The law falling under article 18 will shortly be submitted to the Council of Ministers for approval. The Aids law allows the isolation of the Aids patients or those suspected to be patients in accordance with a decision of a medical committee.

These ladies took part in several charitable bazaars held by the house and other local charity societies and clothes produced by these ladies were sold at these bazaars. The house succeeded in transferring the needy families from consuming to productive families that can ensure their monthly incomes instead of getting donations. The house helps these families and ladies to make their clothes and handicrafts.

"We are studying the idea of offering training courses for needy families in carpentry car mechanics and typewriting," Omar said and added that second stage of the project will aim at making all families getting donations from the house depend on themselves for their incomes. The project will also allow men in these families to get training in co-operation with the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, the official said.

Other articles in the law bans the application of the Aids test on any person before obtaining written approval from the person. In case the person refuses, the doctors are banned from applying the test. As an exception to this rule, the Ministry of Health however, can carry out the Aids test on a person, despite his refusal, if the medical authorities suspect the person to be an Aids patient or carrier, with the aim to provide treatment to him.

The law also gives the right to the Ministry of Health to take the appropriate measures to apply the Aids test on people returning to Kuwait particularly from destinations where Aids is known to be widespread. The aim of the test should be to ensure that the person is free of the Aids virus.

Public police will assist in the isolation. The law also punishes with a jail term of not more than seven years and a fine not exceeding KD7,000 to all persons who know that they were Aids patients or carriers and intentionally infect others with the disease.

The law requires all couples planning to get married to undergo an Aids test, but it does not consider infection of any of them as an obstacle for completing the marriage, provided they both submit a written approval of their desire to go ahead with the marriage.

The law also requires that doctors should inform the wife or husband in case any of them is infected with the Aids virus.

The law compels persons who come to know that they are Aids patients to inform the Ministry of Health immediately of this fact. They have to abide by the preventive and treatment measures the ministry asks them to follow. Such persons should make sure they don't transfer the disease to any other person. Aids patients, according to the law, are not banned from going abroad for treatment. Upon their return they must surrender themselves to the Ministry of Health in order to carry out the necessary check-ups and tests.

The law bans taking out the dead bodies of Aids patients from their graves in cases allowed by laws, unless a specialised doctor from the Ministry of Health is present to take the necessary preventive measures.

The law asks the Ministry of Health to form a consultative committee for combating Aids. The minister of health will issue all the necessary measures concerning the committee.

Violators of the regulations, except infecting others with Aids intentionally, will subject the violator to a jail sentence not exceeding six months and a fine not exceeding KD500 or one of the two penalties.

The Aids

## EDITORIALS

**ARAB TIMES****Thought for today**

THE best way to cheer yourself up is to try to cheer someone else up — *Mark Twain, US writer (1835-1910)*.

**New Jersey a ghost in Gulf****Iran cries provocation**

**MANAMA, (AP):** Iran has branded the arrival of the US battleship New Jersey in the Gulf a provocation, but the most powerful warship ever to enter the waterway might as well have been a ghost ship as far as other Gulf states were concerned.

Arab sensitivity to foreign intrusions, US policy toward Israel, and the New Jersey's fearsome firepower probably combined to keep the visit from making the public relations splash that US officials evidently had hoped for, diplomatic sources said Monday.

Saudi Arabia, despite friendly ties with the United States, denied the New Jersey permission to enter Dhahran, a port that is home for about 8,000 Americans, oil workers and their families, and is frequently visited by other US ships.

As the battleship neared the end of its visit, diplomats said the Saudi action had possibly encouraged other Gulf Arab states to soft-pedal an event that was intended by US officials to demonstrate what a Pentagon spokesman called "the continuing US commitment to the region" since the end of the Iran-Iraq war last year.

**Patriot**

The New Jersey, a 45-year-old warship updated with missiles and other weaponry to complement its World War II-vintage, 16-inch (406 mm) guns, recently arrived for a three-month patrol tour in the Indian Ocean.

Its side trip into the Gulf was the first for a US battleship in "modern times," the Defence Department said.

US Navy records here show it to be the biggest warship of any nation ever to sail into the cramped and busy oil waterway.

Yet in anchoring far offshore and attracting only limited news coverage, the 58,000-ton vessel has been almost unnoticed since it entered the Strait of Hormuz last Thursday.

Predictably, the strongest reactions to the New Jersey's arrival came from Iran, which accused the United States of a "provocation" and "heightening friction."

Tehran Radio, monitored in Cyprus, quoted Hossein Hashemian, a deputy speaker of parliament, as saying the move "will not augur well for the United States."

**Security**

He repeated Iran's oft-stated demand that foreign navies should get out, leaving the security of the oil waterway to the countries around it.

While US officials were expected to call the New Jersey's visit a success, some Americans had earlier questioned the wisdom of timing such a visit on the anniversary of the Palestinian uprising against Israel, or bringing into Arab waters a warship remembered by some for misdirected shelling that killed civilians in Lebanon in early 1984.

A naval source, asking not to be named, said the only reported complaint was by an American diplomat who criticised the Pentagon's disclosure of the visit.

"I don't know how we're expected to hide a battleship," the source said.

US embassy officials in Riyadh confirmed that Saudi Arabia had asked that a proposed visit (by the New Jersey) be deferred.

There was no comment from the Saudis. But Western diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Riyadh's refusal to let the New Jersey enter the oil port at Dhahran probably influenced the low-key handling by other Arab states.

**Facilities**

At Bahrain, which provides shore facilities for US Navy ships permanently based in the Gulf, the New Jersey anchored 2 miles (3.2 km) offshore.

Except for some dignitaries invited to tour the ship, probably not more than a handful of residents even noticed the lean gray silhouette on the horizon as they drove along seaside highways.

Gulf newspapers and television stations that routinely cover maritime events, including port calls by foreign warships, ignored the New Jersey's overnight visit.

The English-language Gulf News carried a small story saying the ship had entered the Gulf, but nothing about it being at Bahrain.

Clive Jacques, the newspaper's editor-in-chief, said: "Naval ships from a number of countries regularly visit the Gulf and Bahrain at times is among the ports of call."

We recorded the fact that the USS New Jersey was in the Gulf, but it's not the newspaper's policy, as a Bahrain publication, to report extensively on such matters."

At Dubai, the New Jersey again stayed offshore, away from onlookers.

Newspapers in the United Arab Emirates reported the ship's Gulf arrival, but not its planned visit to Dubai. Only the appearance of unusual numbers of American sailors — in civilian clothes — might have offered a clue to the ship's presence.

Some newspapers in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait carried stories on the New Jersey's visit, but made no mention of its ports of call.

**TODAY IN HISTORY**

1545 — Protestant princes opposing Holy Roman Emperor Charles V meet at Frankfurt.

1570 — Denmark, by peace of Stettin, recognizes independence of Sweden.

1789 — Austrian Netherlands declares independence as Belgium.

1808 — Madrid capitulates to Napoleon Bonaparte.

1897 — Russian forces occupy Port Arthur on Yellow Sea.

1916 — About 9,000 Austro-Hungarian troops are killed in avalanches in the Alps.

1921 — United States, Britain, France and Japan sign Washington treaty to respect each others' rights over insular possessions in Pacific.

1937 — Japanese troops take Nanking City in China.

1944 — In World War II, Japanese suicide plane crashes into US cruiser Nashville, killing 133 crewmen.

1950 — South Africa refuses to place South-West Africa under United Nations trusteeship.

1967 — Military government in Greece crushes counter-coup, and King Constantine flees to Rome with his family.

1969 — Britain announces agreement to withdraw all its forces from Libya within next few months.

1972 — US Apollo 17 astronauts, on last US Moon mission, unveil plaque-dedicated to peace — on lunar surface.

1974 — Egypt demands 50-year freeze on Israel's population as condition for peace in Middle East.

1986 — Iraq says its warplanes struck and destroyed an air defence network and power plant in Tehran.

1988 — Seventeen anti-government rebels and six civilians are killed in fresh wave of violence in Sri Lanka.



South African police seize a student during a demonstration. (Reuter wirephoto)

**Tough tactics in South Africa****Lawlessness within police force****Black groups fight for control**

**JOHANNESBURG, (AP):** Mass murder, armed robbery, abduction, extortion, assassination. In the past two years, active and former members of South Africa's National Police Force have been accused or convicted of all these crimes, and many more.

Allegations of police misdeeds have touched only a small part of the 60,000-member force, but they are still so frequent that seemingly startling cases often receive cursory coverage in the local media. Senior commanders, in public speeches, have taken to reminding the force that police officers are supposed to protect people.

"The problem has gotten worse because of the emergency regulations (imposed in 1986), which to a large extent put the police beyond the law," said Brian Currim, head of an organization of human rights lawyers. "A mentality has developed among some people in the police force that they can do virtually anything."

Accusations against the police are nothing new. For decades, anti-apartheid activists have complained of legal and sometimes deadly police tactics, including torture, against opponents of the government's racial policies.

Sometimes, out-of-court payments were made to victims of police brutality and occasionally policemen faced criminal charges. But police commanders generally stood by their men, saying tough tactics were necessary to counter the "revolutionary onslaught" of militant black opposition groups.

Lately, however, active and former policemen have been convicted or accused of crimes so clearly indefensible that police commanders and government leaders have shifted their rhetoric, asking the public not to blame the entire force for the misdeeds of a minority of officers.

"I will protect the interests of every member of the police as I do my own, but I expect every member, in the same spirit, to protect the interests of every inhabitant of this land as he does his own," said the new commissioner of police, Lt Gen. Johan Van Der Merwe, in a recent speech.

The latest wave of accusations against the police follow public allegations for former and active policemen running death squads against anti-apartheid activists. They also follow moves by F.W. de Klerk, who replaced P.W. Botha as president in August, to reduce the political power accumulated by the security forces under Botha and to make police more accountable for their actions.

Two of the most sensational cases of the past two years involved former policemen.

One of them, avowed white-supremacists Barend Strydom, is on death row after being convicted of murdering seven blacks and an Indian in two shooting sprees last year. While on the police force, Strydom had posed for a snapshot holding the severed head of a black man in his hand.

Two other former policemen have been detained in connection with the assassination this year of two prominent white activists, university lecturer David Webster in Johannesburg and lawyer Anton Lubowski in Windhoek, Namibia. One of the suspects was convicted in 1984 of stealing cars and murdering drug dealers while serving as a narcotics detective.

The government also investigating allegations that death squads within the ranks of the police force have killed government opponents.

There are numerous other cases involving active members of the police. Among them:

• Eleven white policemen were arrested on armed

**MPUMLALANGA, South Africa, (Reuter):** Mpumalanga means "where the sun rises", but the tone of hope and optimism implied by the name of this South African black township is not shared by the 100,000-plus people who live here.

Mpumalanga is one of the principal battlefields in a new eruption of South Africa's so-called "Zulu war", involving rival black groups fighting for control of the deceptively tranquil-looking townships spread over the lush hills of Natal province.

Clusters of fire-blackened, deserted homes and a palpable air of tension are signs of the horrors that have invaded the hilly streets of the huge township midway between the port of Durban and the Natal capital of Pietermaritzburg.

First-hand evidence comes from Petrus Ngoboco, a Mpumalanga resident who flagged down a visiting reporter's car in order to tell his story.

**Violence**

"I wasn't at home when the people attacked, but my wife was," Ngoboco said in Zulu, his words translated by a companion who was eager that word of the often-overlooked township be transmitted to the outside world.

"She locked herself in the toilet, but they poured petrol under the door and set it alight," Ngoboco continued.

She doused the flame with water from the toilet and escaped. But the house was eventually burnt down. The Ngobocos and their five children have moved in with nearby friends.

An unknown number of Mpumalanga residents have fled the township altogether, some of them on foot balancing a few possessions on their

heads.

They have been in townships around Pietermaritzburg, a small, picturesque city of Jacaranda-lined streets whose white residents take scant notice of the mayhem around them.

Many of the dead are victims of isolated murders carried out at night, but recent weeks have also seen pitched battles in broad daylight fought by mobs armed with everything from spears to home-made guns.

**Rivalry**

While the causes of the fighting vary from township to township, the main theme is rivalry between Inkatha, a politically moderate movement headed by Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, and the leftist United Democratic Front (UDF).

Both sides resolutely oppose apartheid race laws, and they both acknowledge that the violent rivalry harms the black cause in its confrontation with white-led Pretoria, but they have little else in common.

"They have fallen into the trap of seeing each other as enemies instead of the apartheid state," said Radley Keys, an official of the white liberal Democratic Party.

But, emphasizing that it is

"It's been hell over the past few weeks," Mpumalanga Mayor Roger Sishi said in an interview conducted at the petrol station that he runs.

"People will spend a very unhappy Christmas in this town," Sishi added.

Christmas is part of the reason for the renewed violence, which in November killed at least 54 people in Mpumalanga plus many others in nearby Natal.

**Revenge**

White migrants come home on the weekend, sometimes spending months away, and when they see what has happened to their families and property, they go looking for revenge.

A rise in alcohol consumption plays its role. There is also a strong criminal element taking advantage of any breakdown in law and order.

According to Peter Kerchoff, a Pietermaritzburg human rights activist who monitors the violence, more than 2,000 people have died in the almost three years since the unrest got underway.

About 1,650 of the victims have been in townships around Pietermaritzburg, a small, picturesque city of Jacaranda-lined streets whose white residents take scant notice of the mayhem around them.

White deaths, I expect to hear about going to the bank. As it is, I don't even feel like the money is really mine. It's like I hacked out." — Andre Agassi after Jimmy Connors defaulted and he won the ITT stakes match.

The police are discredited, residents say, and the military is at least neutral.

White apathy is also an obstacle to ending the violence. Kerchoff noted that only five of the Natal victims have been white.

"If there had been more white deaths, I do not believe we would have reached the same level of violence," he said.

In Pietermaritzburg, the burning issue of the day appears to be not the township unrest but rather the fate of a 150-year-old road extension.

**Lawyers**

Lawyers have told recent sessions of a government-appointed inquiry commission that white homeowners commanding the police force in the black homeland of Kwandwebe oversaw recruitment of vigilantes who terrorized residents.

then tortured and robbed him. One of the defendants, Lt Col Stephanus Brits, was head of a murder and robbery unit in Cape Town.

**Robbery**

They were all sleazeballs. They intended to sell off the store, escalator by escalator, until there was nothing left. They were only interested in making money by burying Blackdale's. You look like a man who cares about the survival of a retail store.

"I am, but I just as soon get me a popcorn maker," he told him.

"I know what you are thinking. You'd rather have Saks or Bloomingdale's. It would be a mistake. You've never going to beat a location like this. Our traffic is twice as heavy as theirs, and we have an upper-bracket clientele that any bankrupt store in America would kill for. We'll even gift-wrap the entire men's furnishings department for you and deliver it on Christmas night."

"I still think a popcorn maker would be more useful."

"The thrill of owning a popcorn maker lasts only a few days. A bankrupt department store is forever."

"I didn't say yes to the man, and I didn't say no. I'm thinking it over. Blackdale's costs more than I really can afford, but then again so does everything else around Christmas time."

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## MIDEAST

### MIDEAST BRIEFS

#### Smog alert

NICOSIA, Dec 12, (Reuters): Tehran radio urged city residents to stay indoors today because of dangerous levels of air pollution.

The radio quoted the environment protection organisation as saying the level of carbon monoxide and other dangerous gases had reached more than 2.5 times the safe limit at mid-day.

The radio also urged motorists to leave their cars at home and use buses or taxis. Some 1.4 million vehicles, many old and in poor repair, and 260,000 factories and workshops pump smoke and exhaust fumes into Tehran's air.

#### Quake kills

NICOSIA, Cyprus, Dec 12, (AP): A mountain slide triggered by an earthquake killed one person in southern Iran today, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

The agency said no reports were yet available on other casualties or the extent of damage caused by the quake, which was centred 65 miles (100 kilometres) northeast of the city of Shiraz.

The earthquake struck at 8.10 am (0400 GMT) and registered 4.4 on the Richter Scale, the agency reported in a dispatch monitored in Cyprus.

#### Shamir recovering

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Dec 12, (AP): Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is recovering after a successful hernia operation today, his doctors said.

Shamir, 74, underwent the hour-long operation under a local anaesthetic and spoke to his surgeons and anesthesiologists throughout the surgery, Dr Aryeh Durst, director of surgery at Hadassah Hospital in occupied Jerusalem, said on Israeli radio.

Durst said Shamir probably will be hospitalized for several days.

#### Rebel's denial

NAIROBI, Dec 12, (AP): Sudanese rebels today rejected as "a pack of lies" Sudanese government claims to have recaptured two southern towns and criticised the government for claiming to have broken a rebel siege around another.

Sudan's leader, Lt. Gen. Omar Hassan Al Bashir on Saturday claimed his forces had won back Kaka, a tiny commercial town 350 miles (560 kms) south of Sudan's capital, Khartoum, the previous day.

#### Arab League HQ

CAIRO, Dec 12, (Kuna): The nine-story Arab League's building here, which is overlooking the Nile river from one side and one of the most famous squares in Egypt from the opposite side, is having a facelift and general renovation work.

The "eye-catching" phenomenon has spurred speculation over the imminent return of the Arab League headquarters to Egypt after nearly ten years of operating in Tunisia in the aftermath of the suspension of Egypt's membership in the organisation.

#### UN lambasted

UNITED NATIONS, Dec 12, (AP): The wife of Col William Higgins, the UN peacekeeping soldier kidnapped and allegedly executed in Lebanon, yesterday accused the UN of making its forces "sitting ducks" by failing to ensure their safety.

Higgins, a US marine officer, was serving with UN peacekeeping forces in Lebanon when he was kidnapped in February, 1988. Higgins' body has not been recovered.

#### Foot-and-mouth toll

TUNIS, Dec 12, (Reuters): An outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in central Tunisia has killed 19,000 lambs and 800 ewes, goats and cows, officials said today.

The authorities diagnosed the disease last week and have since vaccinated 50,000 animals. More vaccines are on order from France, the officials of the Agriculture Ministry said.

They had already isolated the affected flocks and suspended livestock markets in some areas. The worst-hit provinces were Sidi Bou Zid and Qairanah, about 170 km (110 miles) southwest of Tunis.

#### Influx of Soviet Jews

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Dec 12, (Reuters): Israel is facing the largest influx of Jews in modern history, maybe since (the Jews) left Spain, Sharansky said, referring to the Spanish inquisition of 1492.

Sharansky, who emigrated to Israel in 1980 after serving nine years in Soviet prisons, told a news conference that recent Soviet reforms meant hundreds of thousands of Jews would leave for Israel.

#### Greece-Cyprus talks

ATHENS, Dec 12, (AP): Cyprus President George Vassilios arrived today to brief Greek government and political party leaders on the prospects of reviving intercommunal talks on his troubled divided island.

Shortly after his arrival, Vassilios met with Foreign Minister Antonis Samaras to bring him up to date on efforts to rekindle United Nations sponsored negotiations between Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

#### US wants former king to play a role in settling Afghan political problem

ISLAMABAD, Dec 12, (AP): Anti-communist rebels said yesterday that the United States wants Afghanistan's ex-king Zahir Shah to play a role in a political solution to the decade-long war.

Washington's special envoy to the rebels, Peter Tomsen, expressed support for a role for Zahir Shah during a meeting yesterday with Burhanuddin Rabbani, a key rebel leader, rebel sources said.

The guerrillas, known as Mujahideen or Islamic holy warriors, are fighting to topple Kabul's Marxist government.

It is the first time that Washington has openly pushed for Zahir Shah's

## Israel won't be forced into talks 'No US pressure'

WASHINGTON, Dec 12, (Reuters): President George Bush said today that he would not pressure Israel to negotiate with the PLO.

"I don't think it is the role of the United States to force Israel to negotiate with the PLO," Bush said at a question-and-answer session with newspaper editors.

Hardliners in Israel have charged that a US plan for three-way talks between the foreign ministers of the United States, Israel and Egypt will lead to contacts between the PLO and the Jewish state.

The United States said last Wednesday that Egypt had accepted Secretary of State James Baker's five-point Middle East initiative and hailed this as a step toward convening historic direct Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations.

Baker is attempting to get talks underway on elections in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Bush said on Monday that Baker had made "progress" in "working out a very difficult formulation" for talks about elections.

Baker has said that a Middle East peace settlement will eventually require talks between Israel and Palestinian representatives.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who unveiled the election proposal last spring, has ruled out any role for the PLO or its representatives in that process.

Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said yesterday that Israel wants guarantees from the United States that the PLO will have no role in the peace process before he attends talks in Washington.

Troops ordered Arabs to take down banned Palestinian flags and erase nationalist graffiti in Bir Zeit following a paramilitary march there yesterday marking the 21st anniversary of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

In Yarmouk village near the West Bank town of Jenin, a two-week-old baby died in disputed circumstances during a search by the army.

Ibrahim Latif Labadi, 35, said soldiers stepped on his daughter, Baraa, when they searched his home, but an army spokesman told Reuters a military doctor determined the baby died from birth complications.

Palestinians and an Israeli civilian shot and wounded a 15-year-old youth in Tulkarm when his vehicle was stoned.

The army accused the four of



Bush belonging to the Black Panthers, a group affiliated with the PLO's mainstream Fatah faction and said by the army to have killed 16 Arabs suspected of collaborating with Israel.

During the curfew on Nablus, clamped by the army immediately after the killing, troops rounded up dozens of Palestinian activists in house-to-house searches.

It was one of the longest curfews imposed on the strongly nationalistic city during the two-year-old Palestinian revolt against Israeli rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The army also lifted curfews on several refugee camps and villages around Nablus today but confined residents to their homes in the West Bank town of Bir Zeit.

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## Jordan moves to remove press gag

AMMAN, Dec 12, (AP): The government yesterday reversed the decree that nationalised Jordan's newspapers last year and reinstated the old boards of directors, continuing a series of liberalising measures.

The action led to immediate changes at the Al Rai Arabic daily, where the previous editor resumed his job and three prominent writers fired earlier were rehired.

The official Jordan news agency said the economic security committee decided to reverse the nationalisation order "in accordance with the new government direction to cancel martial laws."

Although martial law remains in effect,

King Hussein and Prime Minister Mudar Badran said recently they will work to

restrict its impact. The king chaired Monday's economic committee meeting, according to a source at the prime ministry.

"It assures us of the government's

policy of liberalisation and democracy

and improving freedom of the press for

all," said Mahmoud Al Kayed, resuming his role as editor of the Arabic daily Al Rai.

The kingdom last month held its first general election in 22 years. On Sunday, Prime Minister Mudar Badran announced that many remaining political prisoners would be released.

The government announcement did not refer to the ownership of the papers it forcibly purchased last year.

But Kayed said in a telephone interview he had been assured "the newspapers will be owned by the private sector."

"It is possible that the government will keep some shares for itself, but it will be much less than 50 per cent," he said.

Kayed was a co-owner of Al Rai and its sister publication, the English-language Jordan Times. The decree also affects the Arabic language dailies Sawt Al Shaab and Ad Dustour.

"The indication is that they want to transfer it to the private sector, but who will own what is not sure," said Mahmoud

Shafiq, a former editor and co-owner of Ad Dustour.

Some changes were immediate: Kayed said he had already replaced Al Rai editor Rakan Majali, installed after the nationalisation.

Kayed also rehired three writers who had tangled with government officials: Bader Abdul Haq and Fakr Kawar of Al Rai and Lamia Andoni of the Jordan Times.

"It's great. It's unbelievable," said Andoni, also the local correspondent for a number of Western publications. "It was like a period of mourning as far as the press was concerned. Now we're all celebrating here."

The news agency, Petra, said direction of the newspapers would be returned to the boards of directors ousted by Aug. 24, 1988, martial law decision to nationalise the dailies.

Government-linked organisations now

own a majority of all the newspapers, but private investors also own shares.

"We have to wait to see what other measures will be taken to consolidate the freedom of the press," Sharif said.

Last year's nationalisation was part of an increasingly tight leash imposed on the press by former Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, who was ousted by the king following four days of anti-Rifai riots over price rises in April.

Many critics said public anger was aggravated by the contrast between declining living standards and repeated optimistic claims in the government-owned press.

Jordanian newspapers have almost always been generally pro-government and critical writers have sometimes been harassed by security forces.

But Sharif noted that "relatively speaking, we have enjoyed a greater amount of freedom of the press than most Arab countries."

## Israel may retaliate if Syria acts to oust Aoun

PARIS, Dec 12, (Kuna): An Israeli official source was quoted here today as saying any Syrian military action in Lebanon to dislodge Gen. Michel Aoun from the presidential palace can provoke an Israeli response.

"If Aoun is to go, he must be unseated through political, not military means," an Israeli government source was quoted as saying to the Middle East defence news bi-weekly, Mednews.

The source did not specify the "red line" Syria should not cross in Lebanon, but it hinted that the military situation there is close to provoke an Israeli military reaction.

According to Israeli estimations, Mednews said there are 40,000 Syrian soldiers in Lebanon, with about 26,400 stationed in and around Beirut.

"What you have here is a waiting game," said one Israeli official to Mednews. "There are threats, counter-threats, a political process. The important thing is to avoid a new carnage in Beirut."

Mednews said "the Israelis have never been particularly fond of Gen. Aoun (the feeling is mutual) but they fear that Syrian military moves against Aoun could threaten their interests."

It maintained that Israeli troops along the border remain on combat alert and could intervene at any time if the situation worsens.

Saudi Arabia, anxious to prevent a renewed cycle of violence in Lebanon, has appealed for all factions in the war-weary country to support Arab efforts to achieve a lasting peace there.

The Saudi cabinet carried by the official Saudi Press Agency followed a clash in Beirut.

"The (Saudi) cabinet renew its appeal to all Lebanese parties to stop the armed clashes that erupted anew in several areas in both sectors of the capital, Beirut," the agency, received in Cyprus, quoted Information Minister Ali Al Shaei as saying.

Meanwhile, in Paris, President Francois Mitterrand met with the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Morocco, members of the Arab League committee on Lebanon, and reaffirmed France's support for the Taif agreement for ending the violence.

"With President Mitterrand we proceeded with an evaluation of the situation," said Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozli.

The Saudi Foreign Minister, Prince Saudi Al Faisal, said he was "satisfied" with the French position on Lebanon.

## Heavy snowfalls

ANKARA, Dec 12, (Reuters): Heavy snow and blizzards have cut off more than 1,000 Turkish villages, forcing schools to close and rivers to overflow, the independent Hurriyet news agency said today.

The body of one man was found crushed under an avalanche in the province of Agri on the Iranian border, it said.

More than half the villages, whose roads were blocked by drifts up to one metre (three feet) high, were in eastern Anatolia, the region hardest hit.

Bahrain-Iraq security pact

BAHRAIN, Dec 12, (Reuters): Bahrain and Iraq signed a security agreement today calling for non-intervention in each other's internal affairs, the Gulf News Agency reported.

The pact was signed by Bahrain Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Bin Sulman Al Khalifa and the vice chairman of Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council, Izzat Ibrahim.

Sheikh Khalifa said the agreement was part of efforts to bring Arab states together and would strengthen Bahrain's ties with Iraq.

## S. Yemeni step to end one-party rule

KUWAIT, Dec 12, (UPI): Marxist South Yemen yesterday joined east European communist states in adopting a multi-party system, ending the political domination of the ruling Socialist Party, Radio Aden quoted an official source as saying.

A mandatory Security Council Resolution, No. 598, called for an immediate ceasefire, followed swiftly by a troop withdrawal to internationally recognised boundaries and an exchange of prisoners of war. Apart from the ceasefire, the resolution has not been carried out, and both sides are disputing the borders for a

# Divorced Egyptian women getting a raw deal

**Many of these wives are ignorant of their legal rights and their husbands' permanent address**

Lima Al Khalafawi  
Arab Times staff

DIFFERENT authorities and ministries have been involved in following the cases of divorced Egyptian women and their Kuwaiti children. The problem was publicly debated from 1980 to 1986.

During 1984 one of the Arabic dailies interviewed, Fatchi Al Athari, a member of the Ministry of Justice's committee for investigations about complaints of these Egyptian wives against their Kuwaiti husbands. This committee was formed according to the cabinet's decision. In Cairo at the Kuwaiti consulate, Athari said that they received 756 cases. Ninety percent of these are divorce cases and the rest are concerning widows.

The main problems in these cases were:

1. Demands (of Egyptian

women) to issue a Kuwaiti birth certificate for their children and seek co-operation from their husbands to get a Kuwaiti passport in order to determine the nationality of their children who are considered violating the Egyptian law. Kuwaiti husbands however refused to obtain Kuwaiti birth certificates for their children. Kuwaiti husbands referred this to the circumstances behind such marriages by which they did not recognise the existence of the child. As a result, these children face a problem of joining schools only after paying bribes. These children are being harassed by the Egyptian immigration authorities.

2. The fathers who refused to get Kuwaiti passports for their children cite avoiding problems with their families in Kuwait as the reason. Athari said that the committee faced difficult problems when the Kuwaiti father died

without registering his children in his nationality file.

Sometimes, wives faced problems with the loss of official documents that the husband keeps or hides from his Egyptian wife.

3. Another problem was about non-attested marriage certificates by Egyptian courts due to the ignorance of the married couples.

4. The financial burden the wives face due to the lack of financial help or alimony from husbands.

5. The claim of low alimony.

The families who filed complaints live in very poor financial condition.

#### Standards

Athari said the committee had the following information on such cases:

★ Eighty per cent of husbands were of old age, low education and financially not well-off.

★ Many of these husbands are nationalised or without nationality which is an obstacle for them to marry Kuwaiti women.

★ Many husbands were married before and are incapable of looking after their Egyptian wives and children.

★ Many husbands are suffering from psychological and physical problems.

About the Egyptian wives Athari said, the committee noticed the following:

★ 100 per cent of these wives belonged to very poor educational and financial standards which enticed them to marry old men for the sake of money.

★ A number of these wives were deported from Kuwait for moral crimes such as prostitution and adultery.

★ These wives have one or two children due to the short period of marriage.

denied their Egyptian wives citing some reasons such as:

★ Fear of discovery by those husbands by their Kuwaiti wives in Kuwait.

★ Another Kuwaiti youth was not recognised by his father as a result he worked as a servant for a foreign family.

The writer of this article concluded with the comment:

"These Kuwaiti fathers are afraid to get into trouble with their Kuwaiti wives here but they are not afraid to lose their children in Egypt and be responsible for their delinquency."

#### Recommendations

The issue (Kuwaitis, non-Kuwaiti wives and their children) was discussed by the cabinet which formed a committee and formulated a plan to implement the following:

★ Solve these problems abroad by companies or through courts and secondly to apply new regulations to decrease the number of such incompatible marriages.

Official concern grew when the Ministry of Foreign Affairs wrote to the cabinet about the increase in the number of these complaints.

Thus on June 17, 1984, the cabinet issued a decree forming a committee to follow these cases and undertake a field visit to Egypt to obtain first hand information.

When the committee finished its research, comprehensive reports were submitted to the concerned ministries.

★ Divorce certificates are only given to the husband with the personal attendance of the wife in the presence of the judge to assure her receiving the paper.

★ Not to cancel the residence of any divorced woman married to a Kuwaiti unless she is assured of getting all her rights from her husband.

On Feb 11, 1985 another

Arabic daily said that the cabinet has approved the following permanent regulations on organising marriages between Kuwaiti men and non-Kuwaiti women inside or outside Kuwait:

★ Compel Kuwaiti men to pay alimony for their children and wives residing outside the country with the co-ordination of the Ministries of Justice and Foreign Affairs to assure that those wives and children receive the money.

★ A permanent committee was formed to execute these regulations from different concerned ministries.

★ Divorce certificates are only given to the husband with the personal attendance of the wife in the presence of the judge to assure her receiving the paper.

On Nov 15, 1984, an Arabic daily quoting a source at the Ministry of Justice said that a decision not allowing Kuwaiti men to marry non-Kuwaiti women applies only to old men and those who were married before.

On Feb 11, 1985 another

**There is no other one like it**

## Hejaz railway alive again

DAMASCUS, Syria, (AP): Railway carriages that escaped Lawrence of Arabia's desert raids in World War I are again clattering along the old Hejaz Railway, built by the Ottomans' last ruler to carry pilgrims to Makkah.

The peeling wood and rattling windows of the 80-year-old carriages testify to the history of the line and to the regional turmoil that has kept modernisation at bay.

Jordan and Syria resumed a weekly service on the 138-mile (222-kilometre) stretch between Amman and Damascus in October after an eight-year interruption.

The engines are modern diesels. But the Belgian-built carriages and most of the track were used when the line was built. They are some of the oldest still in use for a regular passenger service, rather than as a tourist attraction.

"There's no other one like it," said Friedrich Pichler, a widely travelled Austrian railroad consultant who made the eight-hour trip to Damascus just to ride the train, it's like people felt the 20s," he said.

The fare, too, can prompt nostalgia: about \$3.50 first class and \$2.10 for second class.

The Turkish Sultan Abdul-Hamid conceived the line to ferry Muslim pilgrims on the annual haj, or pilgrimage to Makkah, birthplace of the Prophet Muhammad, (PBUH), as well as to cement his rule over the Ottoman Empire's Arab provinces.

Construction on the German-engineered line started in 1900 in Damascus. It ended in Madina, in what is now Saudi Arabia, eight years and 810 miles (1,303 kilometres) later.

Turmoil in Turkey and the outbreak of World War I ended plans to extend the line to Makkah.

Marauding Arab rebels accompanied by the British officer T.E. Lawrence, the legendary "Lawrence of Arabia," repeatedly raided the line during the war to block Turkish supplies.

British Maj. Sir Hubert Young, who accompanied Lawrence, later wrote:

"Nothing seemed to give him greater pleasure than the squat down less than 200 yards (metres) from the railway line ... and watch with complete unconcern the slow approach of a train full of Turkish soldiers."

"As soon as the engine was over the undisclosed mine, he would jam down the knob of the exploder, retire to his waiting camel and ride away, hotly pursued by the fire of any soldiers who might have escaped from the rear carriages."

The wrecked trains that Lawrence derailed and bridges he damaged, remarkably preserved in the dry desert air, still can be found along the old line. The remains are mainly in southern Jordan and Saudi Arabia, where passenger service on the Hejaz stopped years ago.

The track that once carried pious pilgrims now ferries phosphate on rebuilt lines through

southern Jordan to the port of Aqaba. The original track north of Amman forces engineers to hold speeds to 50 kilometres an hour (31 mph) on straights and 35 kph (21-1/2 mph) on curves as the train traces the edge of the vast Arabian desert.

It rattles through empty vistas of arid land, past encampments of goat-hair bedouin tents fragrant with brushwood smoke from fires for brewing tea, past ruined Ottoman watering stations built of stone.

In towns, the rare passage of a train briefly halts normal life.

Men and women wave from balconies. Soccer players interrupt their games. Mobs of shrieking children dance and race the horn-blaring train — and sometimes throw stones at it.

The trip is still a novelty as well to the unusually friendly customs and immigration officials.

At the Syrian entry station of Deraa, no bankers awaited foreigners to exchange currency.

So cheerful police packed the only two Westerners into the back of a jeep and raced them 3-1/2 miles (6 kms) to an exchange post. The officers had to push-start their vehicle on the return leg.

The future of the eccentric service is in doubt, however. It seems history is at war with economics.

Railroad officials say it would be too expensive to renovate the weather-beaten wooden cars, whose squeaking wall panels sometimes wiggle independently of their neighbours.

The odd, small size of the track also makes it impossible to carry much freight or trains from standard 143.5-centimetre gauge tracks used elsewhere.

For the Hejaz Railway, the Turks matched a unique 105-centimetre narrow gauge used accidentally on an earlier French line from Beirut to Damascus.

"It should have been 1,065 millimetres, but someone cut the sleepers (track supports) to the wrong width and for reasons of saving money ... it was decided to build the line to fit them instead of sending for new ones," said Geoffrey Freeman Allen, editor of Jane's World Railways in London.

Marwan Hadawi, general director of Syria's branch of the railroad, said Damascus is preparing the roadbed for a new standard-gauge track to the Jordanian border.

The Syrians also are considering using more modern Hungarian passenger cars to replace the ancient Belgian cars on the run to Amman. The Hungarian cars already serve Damascus and Deraa daily.

A 1981 study by German consultants proposed replacing the whole system with a modern, standard-gauge line. But the \$3 billion to \$4 billion price tag means that project is at best far in the future.

Flying into this remote town ringed by jungled mountains seems an eerie descent into the Indo-China war, and two decades back in time.

On closer inspection, the howitzer shells prove to be of wood; the crashed military transport is a hollow fake, while 110,000 silk and polyester flowers make up the field of "opium."

And the blue-eyed macho type running out of a bar that has just been skewered by a hunk of

PRAGUE, (Reuters): A Prague hotel so exclusive that not even a visiting millionaire could book a room has thrown open its imposing doors and plans to go for the public.

Hundreds of liveried staff glide noiselessly through its long corridors, but because of the severe restrictions on entry there has rarely been a guest to be seen.

"Now things will be different," manager Jan Dite told Reuters in his first interview with a Western correspondent. "We'll have to get used to its."

Management said the hotel, built in 1981 at an undisclosed cost, would go commercial at the beginning of next year — although it would remain property of the party to relinquish its monopoly on power.

Ordinary rooms will cost about \$100 a night enough to burn a hole in the pockets of Westerners and certainly beyond the reach of ordinary Czechoslovaks.

But the move is at least a con-

cession to opposite demands that party members forfeit privileges that include not only use of the hotel but also special health care and access to hidden stores stocked with luxury meats and dairy goods.

Manager Dite admitted the hotel has been losing money since it was built but would not say how much. "We were subsidised from the party's budget. Our average occupancy rate has been less than 50 per cent," he said.

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The 116 rooms with terrace gardens include 32 "small" and eight "presidential" suites. A small suite is actually bigger than many family apartments in Prague. The manager graciously declined to show any of the presidential suites.

The hotel can sleep 200 people and employs a staff of 350, Dite said.

Facilities include a circular indoor swimming pool, a well-used bowling alley, pool tables, a sauna, tennis and volleyball courts, a beauty shop, a cinema and a massage parlour.

But its miles of wood-paneling, hundreds of black leather armchairs and public rooms resembling vast caverns exclude the grim, moody atmosphere of a place that is too big and too empty.

Only during party congresses and on other special occasions has the building ever come to life.

The hotel then teems with officials. Fleets of chauffeur-driven Tatra limousines would wait outside to take them to the congress venue, the Palace of Culture, another huge structure nicknamed "Moby Dick."

For years locals eyed the hotel, built on the site of a former public park, with a mixture of awe and resentment.

They told tales of 18 underground floors, private lifts to suites, a secret tunnel from the underground railway terminal nearby, wild parties and call girls.

But none of the stories could ever be verified as outsiders could not enter the gates guarded by armed plainclothes security to see for themselves.

Welcome to 'Air America' — 'The Secret War' in Laos

## 'We're not here, so what you and I just saw, didn't happen'

The pilots were variously described as mercenaries, patriots and "the finest bunch of airplane drivers that has ever been got together anywhere." They flew — and sometimes died — by the motto "anything anywhere anytime."

The film focuses on the relationship between two pilots, played by Gibson and Robert Downey Jr., as they fight, drink and where in a bizarre war that officially doesn't exist.

"We're not here, so what you and I just saw didn't happen," a CIA man lectures Gibson, who has vainly tried to rescue a fellow pilot, Charlie, from a burning plane. Moments earlier, the film shows US president Richard Nixon announcing on television that America was not militarily

involved in Laos. "It may not have happened to you and it may not have happened to Nixon but it sure as hell happened to Charlie," Gibson replies.

Director Roger Spottiswoode said he hoped the movie would work as an adventure film featuring aerial stunts and darkish humour along with political undertones.

Gibson, the director said, plays an outwardly cynical veteran flier "who has made his uneasy peace with a world he knows is corrupt." Downey portrays a younger man fresh from Los Angeles who balks at compromise and rebels when he discovers that he has unwittingly been ferrying opium.

Some Air America veterans

have grumbled to the producers that they would be depicted as a bunch of drug runners and that the story of the secret war would be distorted. The CIA has had no comment.

But while an earlier, discarded script reportedly was studded with black humour and sharp slants on the war, the "political guts were torn out" of the final script and the pilots are portrayed as heroes, a film source said.

The final version goes lightly on the official American conduct of the war in Laos, which included secret bombings, a string of lies and the CIA's helping hand in the marketing of opium for its hilltribe allies.

A great deal of effort, however, has gone into recaptur-

ing the look and atmosphere of 1971 Laos.

Production designer Allah Cameron dressed up sections of Chiang Mai, the major city of northern Thailand, to resemble the Laotian capital of Vientiane. Bar girls were brought up from Bangkok to the re-created white rose, a pilot hangout in Vientiane.

Mae Hong Son proved strikingly similar to Long Tieng, a CIA-run base that mushroomed into the second largest city in Laos. Its existence was publicly known, but details of what went on there were closely guarded.

For the movie, three hangars, a hospital, warehouse and operating theatre were built at Mae Hong Son's once sleepy airport. The Thai military provided the aircraft and extra pilots.

**S.B. Nair (Appu Nair)**

68 years

Husband of Mrs Radha Nair Father of (late) Ashok Nair Arun Nair & Shanti Nair

Passed away after brief illness at the Amriti Hospital on 12.12.'89

For further information contact: 565148

## SPECIAL REPORT

ARAB TIMES, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1989

**Divorce and parental kidnapping turn kids into emotional cripples**

By Jadranka Porter

Arab Times staff

FROM Washington to Kuwait, doctors, parents and legislators speak of the devastating effect on children of in and out-of-court battles parents wage for custody, to emotionally win their offspring, or simply for revenge.

The divorce itself, and even more drastic parental kidnapping, can turn the children into emotional cripples, criminals and drug addicts; warn those who have dealt with such cases.

Untold damage and pain is inflicted on the victims of parental kidnapping," said Jim Schufreider, legislative assistant to Senator Alan Dixon of Illinois, the US lawmaker who is fighting against abduction of American children to foreign countries by their non-American parent.

Most abducting parents, overcome by rancour after having lost the court battle for custody, would resort to any tactic to win the child, he explained.

"The abducting parent would tell his child, 'your mother doesn't love you, she doesn't want you, which is in almost all cases not true. The effect on the child is devastating. This is something that cannot be forgotten."

Kuwaiti clinical psychologist Dr Marwan S. Al Mutawa, who has worked with children from broken marriages, puts it in starker terms: "Some of these children are living a nightmare." He says the emotional blackmail that some divorcing parents resort to can lead to schizophrenia, paranoia, and lifelong emotional scars in children as they watch the ugly tug-of-war in which their parents — their models until yesterday — come crashing down.



Dr Marwan S. Al Mutawa

In mixed marriages, the cultural differences between parents, once glossed over, now, at the time of divorce loom large and children are not only torn between the mother and father but also the values they stand for. The saddest part is that they are the most severely affected, victims trapped in a situation they are not responsible for and they cannot fully comprehend.

"The first reaction of children faced with a split between their parents is confusion," says Dr Marwan. "They ask me, 'is it really a disaster, will I go away, and why is my mother not living with us any more?'

## EVENTS

## Indian Video Roundup

## 'Gawahi': who killed the tycoon?

By Fathima Ahmed

Arab Times staff  
NOT a hopeless situation, after all. Cinema, it seems, can still come up with a watchable movie, occasionally. It takes courage to break off from tradition and try out new ideas, and make them work. Director Anant Balani's telefilm *Gawahi*, shot in three months, does just that. It works.



Zeenat Aman — the pretty mistress

in terms of narration, living up to the suspense it creates in the opening scene.

The curtain rises on the death of a man; he jumps from the roof of a high-rise building. He is identified as business tycoon Ranjit Choudhury, a man who worked his way up the corporate ladder, breaking some rules in the process. Was it suicide or

murder? Ranjit is successful, wealthy and youthful — not the profile of a man who commits suicide. The blame falls on his pretty mistress, Janvi Kaul (Zeenat Aman), who has every motive to do away with him. Ranjit jilts her, marrying Shashi (Ranjeeta Kaur), daughter of a powerful businessman.

Did she or didn't she kill the tycoon? A whodunit, set in court, it sustains interest for most part of the film.

Millionnaire-businessman Ranjit Choudhury is an enigma, a mystery, a man of many moods. His character unfolds through dialogue, and cross-questioning and flashbacks. Is he innocent or guilty? Is he a saint or a devil? Who is he?

His mistress, Janvi Kaul, is as intriguing as the man himself. A woman with a shady past, Janvi is in the docks for her links with a married man. Not a typical Indian woman, she has broken all social rules to live with the man. Does she love him? Or did she hate him enough to kill him?

Balani, who has also scripted *Gawahi*, does away with trivia and relies on dialogue, and fine camera angles to build suspense, before he shatters the illusion. There is a fine twist in the tale that takes you by surprise. Although not perfect, it is far better than many so-called thrillers thrown down the conveyor belt in Bombay.

*Zeenat Aman, who had semi-*

retired after marriage, makes a comeback. Svelte and perky at 40, she plays Janvi more naturally than she ever did in the mainstream cinema.

## Sikka

Bombay filmmakers can't resist formulas. Take *Sikka* for example. It relies on all the formulae in the book, hoping to hoodwink viewers by passing off *Sikka* as a mystery thriller. It's certainly not a thriller. Perhaps, it is a revenge drama with an unusual twist.

It's the story of two friends, Vijay (Dharmendra and Prem), bosom — rather golf — pals. Prem falls from grace when Vijay discovers his nefarious activities. Prem's hatred grows against after the death of his only son. Vijay is in big trouble — so are the viewers, reeled in by the romantic pair Shot (a Dimples Kapadia) and Jai (Jackie Shroff).

In the tradition of the 1950s and 1960s cinema, a comic subplot unfolds with Kader Khan, Asrani and Aruna Irani clowning around for your benefit. It raises more questions than laughs.

The good-vs-evil theme is now so worn out that we need not ask who wins in the climax, when bullets fly and bombs explode, creating the illusion of Beirut on fire. In *Sikka*, it's just the bad guys having fun at the expense of our sensibilities.



Dharmendra

Despite the apparent flaws in the contrived narrative, there are some moments that reward your patience. For instance, Jackie's abominable behaviour towards Shoba, whom he supposedly loves. And, if you only get to see animals and insects, for a change, why not see the antics of humans in the concrete jungle?

The above films are by courtesy of Athari Video, Main St., Farwaniya, Tel: 471-2900.

## TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

## KTV 1

## MORNING PERIOD

- 9.30 The opening and Holy Quran
- 9.40 Sabah Al Kher, news and variety
- 10.00 Cartoon serial
- 10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
- 10.30 Hawer Zawer: Local serial (Final part)
- 11.30 Sabah Al Kher, news and variety
- 12.00 Circus: Variety programme
- 12.30 News Summary
- 12.35 Holy Quran and Closedown

## EVENING PERIOD

- 4.00 The opening and Holy Quran
- 4.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
- 4.45 Bereen: Cartoon serial
- 5.15 Football Lessons: sports programme
- 5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements
- 6.00 Al Islam Hadhara: religious programme (Final part)
- 7.00 Popular Features:

## NIGHT CHEMIST

- |                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Kuwait                 | Mujil Pharmacy    |
| Abdulla Al Mubarak St. | Al Amin Pharmacy  |
| Jaber Al Mubarak St.   | Ibrahim Adham St. |
| Hawalli                | Shamsan Pharmacy  |
| Iben Khaldoun St.      | Najah Pharmacy    |
| 4th Area               | Fahad Pharmacy    |

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

local programme, prepared and presented by Hmoud Al Baghili

7.45 Television Network: local programme, prepared and presented by Abdul Rahman Al Najar

8.30 Good Evening and local news

9.00 News in Arabic

9.45 Al Manzel Al Khafif: Arabic serial (part 3)

11.30 Hikayat Al Wad Abbas: Arabic play, starring Waheed Saif, Fareeda Saif Al Nasir and Sahar Rami

1.15 News Summary

1.20 The World Today via Satellite

1.50 Holy Quran and Closedown

## KTV 2

- 6.00 Opening announcement & Holy Quran
- 6.10 Volturon: A cartoon series for children
- 6.30 Danger Bay: Grant and Nicole are

shocked to find an abandoned truck loaded with toxic waste ... search for other trucks took place with the help of J.L and skywatch...

7.00 Beyond 2000: Future US space programmes... Travel cost to outer space... inhabited space-ship ... the effect of gravity on man...

8.00 News in English

8.30 The Great World Circuses: The acrobatic family presents fantastic circus shows... Shows in water... and a variety of acrobatic and smash circus shows...

9.30 Wildlife On One: "The Bee-Team." A bird known as "Bee-Eater" lives in a very complicated society ever discovered by man...

10.00 Cine Club: Presented by Farook Abdulla

11.30 Nesverto (Vampire): Based on Count Dracula story...

12.00 News in Brief

12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

PRAYERS

Fajr	5.09 am
Zohr	11.42
Aср	2.32 pm
Magrib	4.54
Isha	6.13

Al Andalus	Arabic film
Salimiyah	Hall booked
Al Hamra	Arabic film
Drive-in	Arabic film
Al Firdous	Garibon Ka Daata
Fahsheel Open	Closed for winter
Kheitan	Arabic Film
Chattanooga Choo Choo	Al Jaara
Granada	Arabic film
Arabic Film	Garibon Ka Daata
Kapitano's Y Mas	Sabahikhat
THE Kapisanang Pilipino sa Kuwait/The Association of Filipinos in Kuwait (Kapilkid)	Good Morning Vietnam
DEC 15: Annual children's X'mas tree function will be held at the Messilah Beach Hotel on Friday, Dec 15, '89 from 9.30 am onwards. Lots of prizes and surprises await for one and all. Top Ranks in attendance. Crib competition will be judged by Santa Claus specially flown from London.	Jileeb
United Goans Centre	Red Sonja
SANTA Claus is coming to town on December 15 at the Al Salam Hotel in the Al Deira Hall exactly at 9.30 am, with loads of gifts and sweets for all your children. Make your presence at the United Goans Centre's X'mas party. A unique fancy dress parade for children and lots of surprises await the young and the old. Lively music from the "Next of Kin." For further information contact Tel: 2612024 or Movie: 2424337.	Al Madhi Drive-in
X'mas tree	Arabic film
DEC 15: Flying Arrows Sporting Centre once again invites their members and guests to their annual X'mas tree function, to be held at the Carlton Tower Hotel from 11:30am onwards. Asumptuous buffet, gifts galore, exciting games and live music by the "Neighbuzz" awaits one and all. Added attraction Leo the Magician is to perform at 12:00pm sharp.	Al Madhi Drive-in
Kuwait Goans	Al Madhi Drive-in
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Cultural function	Al Madhi Drive-in
ON the occasion of Victory Day of Bangladesh, a cultural function will be organised by the Bangladesh Association on Friday, Dec 22, at 6.00 pm at Funaites Indian Arts Circle. The programme contains the most popular old and new hit songs from Hindi films. Also classical and fast dances by young talented artists. Centres for distribution of passes will be announced shortly.	Al Madhi Drive-in
IAC Children's Competition	Al Madhi Drive-in
THE dates of finals of the Children's Competition will take place at IAC Funaites on 13th, 14th, 15th, 27th and 28th December '89 and 18th January '90 respectively. For more details contact Indian Schools.	Al Madhi Drive-in
KONKANI DRAMA	Al Madhi Drive-in
NEW course at the cultural centre: yogic healing classes, two sessions in the evenings on Tuesdays and Thursdays; jutsu (martial arts), Saturday and Mondays; pm; Chinese cooking classes, Saturdays, 9-11 pm. For details call 5624393.	Al Madhi Drive-in
KOSA meeting	Al Madhi Drive-in
KOSA Annual General Meeting — 17 December 7.30 pm Shaib Marina. All members should attend to elect the 1990 committee. For further details please call the KOSA Secretary Declan Mannion on 2452880.	Al Madhi Drive-in
MUSIC NIGHT	Al Madhi Drive-in
MUSIC Night at "The Long-some Traveller". A musical evening in cafe atmosphere featuring performers from the Kuwait Folk Group performing British traditional music, folk, pop and country songs. The evening is being produced by ACT and will provide you with a unique night out. It is being held December 17th at 8.00 pm at the Holiday Inn. For more details, call 5620332 from 5.00 to 7.00 pm.	Al Madhi Drive-in
SAAZ AUR ASWAZ	Al Madhi Drive-in
FEB 2: Saaz Aur Aswaz, one of the leading Indian musical groups of Kuwait present their fourth musical programme entitled Bhule Biare Geet. The show includes Hindi film songs at the Indian Arts Circle, Funaites on February 2, 1990. Passes will be available shortly.	Al Madhi Drive-in
SKYLINE NITE	Al Madhi Drive-in
SKYLINE Institute of Boordai Aviation will celebrate Nite on December 14, 8.00 pm at SAS Hotel (Tent). Nite will have lots of fun music, variety of entertainment and lucky draws....	Al Madhi Drive-in
People's Trust Club	Al Madhi Drive-in
DEC 29: People's Trust Club welcomes you to a day of your life at Ramada Al Salam (Marriott) Hotel, New Ballroom from 10.30 am onwards. Nimble feet, hungry palate, perfect blend of music and style. A get-together with buffet. Featuring Stepping Stones, Top Ranks, Perfect Strangers. There will be novelties and surprises galore.	Al Madhi Drive-in
Canadian Women's League XMAS PARTY: will be held on Friday December 15 from 4 pm to 7 pm in Jabiya. For information or maps call: 5315655 or 2563025.	Al Madhi Drive-in
Study in Britain	Al Madhi Drive-in
ARE you interested in studying AUTOMOBILE or AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING in Britain?	Al Madhi Drive-in
If you are then come and visit the British Council Education Office on 16 & 17 December, for information and advice about the many different courses that are available.	Al Madhi Drive-in
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# BUSINESS & FINANCE

## Western nations to review aid for Poland

BRUSSELS, Dec 12. (Reuter): Foreign ministers from 24 Western countries will review their \$1 billion aid for Poland and Hungary tomorrow but may stop short of an explicit commitment to extend the programme to other East bloc reformers.

A draft communiqué for the Brussels meeting, made available to Reuters today, says only that ministers will meet again when necessary "to give new political impetus to, or widen the scope of, their assistance in the light of new developments."

A European Economic Community summit last weekend referred to the possibility of extending the group of 24 programme to other East European countries as they follow Poland and Hungary down the road to democracy and free-market economies.

In West Berlin today, US Secretary of State James Baker said he favoured extending the programme, set up by the world's seven richest democracies at their summit last July when Poland and Hungary were alone in stripping away Communism.

"As Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and the German Democratic Republic undertake political and economic reforms comparable to those already under way in Poland and Hungary, we believe the activities of the group of 24... should be expanded to support peaceful changes in those countries as well," he said.

But diplomats involved in preparing tomorrow's meeting, which the Polish and Hungarian foreign ministers will attend, said no one wanted to promise other countries that they could expect the same amount of help as the two pioneering reformers.

"We've really had to wring the towel dry to get the money for Poland and Hungary. We can't go back now and ask for more," said one.

The Brussels meeting, organised by the EEC's executive commission, brings together ministers from the 12 EEC countries, six other "West" European nations, the United States, Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and Turkey.

Diplomats said that some countries might choose to announce an increase in their aid efforts at the meeting — Japan is believed to be planning a larger contribution — but that major new initiatives were unlikely.

"They are here as a gesture of political support," one diplomat said.

## Measures to boost market

SEOUL, South Korea, Dec 12, (AP): The government announced special measures today aimed at preventing a possible crash of South Korea's tumbling stock market.

Among other measures, Finance Minister Lee Kyu-Sung pledged an unlimited supply of bank funds to investment trust companies buying stocks.

The action came as South Korea's key stock index dropped to 844 points Monday, the year's lowest level, after nine days of consecutive losses.

Lee said more foreign funds would be lured into the South Korea stock market, indicating an early opening of the domestic securities market to foreign investors. South Korea has been reluctant to open its capital market.

South Korea's stock market has been generally bearish since the composite stock price index hit a record high of 1,007 points in April.

Economic officials have launched a series of market-boosting measures, but the stock market has not responded because of the nation's overall economic sluggishness.

Angry investors have staged sit-ins and other protests at brokerage houses. Some protesters have fought employees at brokerage houses, denouncing the government's economic policy.

## Plans to sign trade pact

MOSCOW, Dec 12, (Reuter): Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will visit Brussels next week to sign a trade agreement with the European Economic Community, the official Tass news agency reported today.

The Soviet-EEC accord, granting trade concessions and setting a framework for future economic co-operation, was finalised last month.

Shevardnadze will be in Brussels on Dec 18 and 19.

## Bank of Tokyo seen active player in the market

This is the second part of the article "Japanese economy continues to grow faster." First part appeared in the Arab Times on Tuesday.

By M.C. Boss  
Business editor

CHAIRMAN of the board of directors of the Bank of Tokyo, Yusuke Kashiwagi was visiting Kuwait for two days to deliver a lecture on current topics on world and Japanese economies. The lecture, arranged by the Kuwait Forum, was held at the Kuwait International Hotel on Monday.

Kashiwagi highlighted the prospects of the world economy in particular and what Japanese economy can contribute to the world economy in 1990. He said that the Japanese economy continued to grow faster than the world economy in the past few years.

During his stay in Kuwait he met leading Kuwaiti business men and investment experts including Jassem Al Khorafi, Minister of Finance and Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah, governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait.

The Bank of Tokyo has always been an active and influential player in this dynamic market and the leader in yen-related instruments. In particular, we are strong in the development of innovative financial techniques, including the establishment of pricing models for look-back options (exercisable at the most favourable price during the option life), extinguishable options (terminable if the option

becomes out-of-the-money beyond the boundary) and Asian options (option on the average market price during the option life). With these impressive capabilities, and our world-wide swap network, we offer clients the most advanced financial services available.

### Other activities

Project Finance. The Bank of Tokyo is a leading provider of asset-based financing for large-scale projects in such areas as energy, industry and real estate as well as basic infrastructure projects. We integrate commercial and investment banking capabilities into the comprehensive service packages needed to see large-scale regional and urban development projects to completion. These capabilities include feasibility studies, recruiting other investors, determining the optimum combination of financing methods and acting as overall financial coordinator and advisor for the project. Important international project financing agreements concluded during the term for which we will serve as co-ordinator included the County Hall Development Project in London, the Harbour Cogeneration Project in Los Angeles, the Regent Park Executive Centre Project in San Diego, the Bosphorus Hotel in Istanbul and the New Century Hotel in Beijing.

The bank also applies its extensive experience in project finance to the rapidly growing number of urban and regional development projects in Japan.

"We are a major participant in various plans for large-scale

redevelopment of the Tokyo Bay waterfront, including the Tokyo International Financial Centre, a project proposed in co-operation with other major corporations to create a new financial centre in Tokyo in response to its rapidly growing status as a leading world financial centre. We will continue to play a key role in the development of this project," he said.

In addition to making constant efforts to manage risk, the bank strives at all times to enlarge its capital base to enable it to absorb unforeseeable risks or losses. "Last year, we issued 60 million shares of common stock amounting to Y93.2 billion and



Yusuke Kashiwagi (centre) pictured with other participants.

convertible bonds amounting to Y70 billion, \$100 million and SF500 million.

The Bank of Tokyo maintains a broadly diversified portfolio of investment securities. Management of these securities takes place under established investment limits for each type of security and currency involved.

The bank seeks to maintain broadly diversified sources of liquidity and to obtain extended maturities for its corporate debt.

To guard against the possibility of a liquidity crunch, the bank strives to maintain an adequate cushion of liquid assets at all times.

"We also strengthened information links between our overseas offices to provide Japanese manufacturers expanding internationally with integrated advice and services, allowing them to maximise emerging international opportunities. We furnish

## Oil prices will rise: Qatar

# A lucky break for Opec, say experts

LONDON, Dec 12, (Agencies): Bitter cold in North America and Europe is supporting oil prices and giving Opec what some market analysts today called a lucky break.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries last month set a ceiling on future output higher than many pundits thought justified. But crude oil prices have risen on shortages of heating fuel.

More snow fell in the United States today. Early New York trading showed that futures for the US benchmark crude oil, West Texas Intermediate, were holding steady around \$20.70 per barrel — up \$1.50 since the Opec talks ended on November 28. "I am buying this market," said Nauman Barakat, a vice-president with US trading house Shearson Lehman Hutton. "If Opec was over-producing now, buyers would be deserting the market."

Barakat conceded that Opec

could not count indefinitely on cold weather to support production of between 23 and 24 million barrels per day (Bpd).

But lower Soviet exports, reflecting economic adjustment in the Soviet Union, may also push buyers in Opec's way. "I am looking for a dip in March or April but at this stage I see only a dollar or so off the barrel," Barakat said.

Geoffrey Pyne, energy economist with European Finance House UBS-Philips and Drew, thought, however, that "the only factor holding crude prices up at the moment is gas oil."

Gas oil is the refined product chiefly used in heating fuel. Refiners up until about three weeks ago were tending to produce more gasoline than gas oil, of which supply is now tight following the arrival of the cold weather.

If the cold snap ends, Pyne said, energy prices generally could ease.

Meanwhile, the Amir of

Qatar, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani, has predicted oil prices will gradually rise in the 1990s due to production cuts by some producing countries.

"The oil prices will rise again especially in the current expected circumstances... mostly reduction in production in some states," the Qatari News Agency quoted him as telling visiting Egyptian editors yesterday.

He did not name the countries but said "the rise in prices will be in stages," the agency said.

Qatar is a member of the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) which last month agreed to raise the group's total output ceiling to 22.1 million Bpd in the first half of 1990 from 20.5 million.

The Amir said his country attached great importance to diversifying sources of national income to avoid dependence on oil alone.

World oil prices climbed Monday, led by a rise of nearly 4 cents

a gallon for heating oil in Europe as a result of continuing problems with Rhine river deliveries and Soviet exports.

Spurred by the European increase, US heating oil initially spurted up more than a penny a gallon on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

But prices fell back as traders took profits to reassess recent increases that has taken the "spread" between the prices of heating oil and the crude from which it is made to double its normal level.

Heating oil ended the day on the Merc at 66.95 cents a gallon, a gain of 0.58 cents. It had risen as high as 68.05 cents earlier in the session.

On the US Gulf Coast spot market, where crude is bought and sold for cash, WTI was also being quoted at \$20.70 a barrel, an increase of 25 cents.

The Merc spread between heating oil and crude, which is normally no more than \$3.75, rose to \$4.41.

## Tunisia sees lower balance of payment

TUNIS, Dec 12, (Reuter): Tunisia forecast today that its current account deficit would fall in 1990, with tourism and exports fuelling economic growth.

Prime Minister Hamed Karoui, in a budget speech to parliament, said higher tourism revenues and exports of agricultural produce and manufactured goods would more than offset declining foreign exchange from oil exports.

Imports, which rose sharply in 1988 and 1989, would start to level off. As a result the current account deficit would fall to 340 million dinars (\$360 million) from an estimated 370 million (\$395 million) this year.

The government budget deficit would be 387 million dinars (\$414 million), against 388 million (\$415 million) in 1989.

Quotes for the one-year dropped to 8-1/4, from 8-7/16, 3/16, partly on expectations Kuwaiti interest rates will decline in 1990.

## Iraq and Saudis sign loan pact

BAGHDAD, Iraq, Dec 12, (AP): Iraq and Saudi Arabia have signed a \$40-million loan agreement under which the Saudi Fund for Development will finance the building of a 400-bed hospital in Basra, according to a senior Saudi official.

Mohammed Ben Abdallah Al Saqayar said today that the Saudi Fund may also loan Iraq an additional \$50 million to rebuild the city's electricity grid.

He said the will underwrite the initial financing of the new hospital, built to replace the municipal hospital badly damaged in the Gulf war.

The 20-year loan carries a 2 per cent service charge with a four-year grace period.

The agreement was signed Sunday by Al Saqayar, deputy chairman of the fund, and Iraq's Finance Minister, Muhammed Mehdie Saleh.

The project will be implemented by a state-owned company and is scheduled to finish in 1993. The city, 90 per cent damaged during the fierce fighting, has been substantially rebuilt.

Al Saqayar said the agreement had been reached on the loan for the electricity network in Basra, but no date had been set. Basra is Iraq's second-largest city and its main commercial port.

The Saudi Fund was set up in 1974 to offer soft loans for Islamic and other developing countries, but this is the first time it offered a loan to Iraq.

## KD deposit rates ease

KUWAIT, Dec 12, (Reuter): Kuwaiti dinar interbank deposits generally eased in thin trade focusing on the short end of the market today as operators covered day-to-day positions.

Oversight funds declined 1/4 point, dealing at levels of eight, 7-3/4 per cent. Tomorrow-next eased 1/8 point to 8-1/4, eight-Spot-next was steady at 8-3/8, 1/8 while one week slipped to 8-12, 5/16 from 8-5/8, 3/8.

Quotes for the one-year dropped to 8-1/4, from 8-7/16, 3/16, partly on expectations Kuwaiti interest rates will decline in 1990.

ish a full range of banking and financial support services to foreign enterprises seeking to enter the Japanese market; our Overseas Corporate Finance Division assists new market entrants by introducing prospective business partners and providing a wide array of essential business information," he added.

Agencies add: Japan is to give South Yemen aid worth 200 million yen (nearly \$1.4 million) to help boost wheat production, the official October 14 newspaper reported today.

It said the aid would comprise machinery, fertilisers, pesticides and spare parts.

Japan is expected to have the highest economic growth rate in the industrialized world next year, while growth in the United States, Canada and Britain is likely to be below the average for developed countries, a top trade official said.

Arthur Dunkel, director-general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, said the rate of increase in world trade was likely to slacken next year, even though 1990 would still mark the eighth consecutive year of expansion.

In the overview of developments in the international trading environment, Dunkel said although there had been much progress toward trade liberalization since the current Uruguay round of trade-free negotiations continued.

The report continued that the prospects were "dim" for reducing the current account imbalances between major trading partners such as the United States, West Germany and Japan.

## Dollar dips

# Bonn mark jumps

LONDON, Dec 12, (Reuter): Driven by detente, the West German mark jumped more than three pence to close at a year-high against the dollar in Europe today.

The mark remains the flavour of the day and the month," a dealer at a London bank said as the currency continued a rally begun after East Germany opened its borders one month ago.

The dollar ended in London at 1.7345 marks, its lowest since December last year when it closed at 1.7315. It finished on Monday at 1.7364.

The dollar has fallen steadily since reaching a 1989 closing high of 2.005 marks on September 15.

It was also sharply higher today against other major currencies although dealers said volume was low in the run-up to Christmas.

"The rally is fuelled purely by commercial demand," said one trader in Frankfurt. "The professionals do not want to get involved in the market this close to the end of the year."

Dealers were divided about the future direction of the dollar and the mark. Some said the mark continued to look well bid although others said the four-week rally might falter soon as investors took profits.

"Some people are getting worried about the dollar," said one trader. "There is talk that it might go into freefall."

But a second trader said the dollar should regain some lost ground as there were signs the United States would avoid recession in 1990, indicating that US interest rates were unlikely to ease.

The mark's rally has been fuelled by expectations that US interest rates could slide, while West German rates remain firm.

The latest burst of mark strength followed Monday's 1990 pay claim by West German engineering workers which, combined with a demand for shorter hours, amounts to a total of 12 per cent.

The inflationary pressures that could be released by such a claim would keep West German interest rates steady or even push them higher, dealers said.

The mark has gained 10 pence since East German borders were opened on November 9, raising the prospect that the already robust strong West German economy stood to strengthen further.

Against the Japanese yen, the dollar closed in London at 143.85 after 14.50 on Monday.

The pound sterling ended firmer at \$1.6040 after 1.5885, following comments on Monday by British Chancellor John Major that he would not hesitate to raise interest rates to bring down inflation.

The mark rose to 2-1/2 year highs against the yen and 8-1/2 year highs against the Swiss franc, dealers said.

"The mark is remarkably strong against the Swiss franc," one dealer said. "It is no longer just a case of the strong mark, but also the fact that the Swiss franc is really fundamentally weak. The Swiss

## BUSINESS

## Poland, IMF hold talks to clinch deal

WARSAW, Dec 12, (Reuters): Poland and the International Monetary Fund ended a round of talks today on an agreement that would trigger billions of dollars of Western aid.

Final agreement on a tough economic adjustment plan for Poland is expected to be announced later this week.

A Polish spokesman said IMF managing director Michel Camdessus met Finance Minister Leszek Balcerowicz for more than three hours before leaving Poland after four days of intensive talks to clinch negotiations that began in September.

Camdessus said on Monday he and Balcerowicz had already agreed the key elements of letter of intent from the Polish government to the IMF detailing proposed economic reforms and austerity measures for 1990.

The Finance Ministry spokesman gave no details of today's talks but Camdessus said on Monday it would be the last round as he expected the letter of intent to be finalised this week.

Camdessus told reporters he enthusiastically endorsed the "courageous" programme proposed by the Solidarity-led government to curb 450 per cent inflation and switch Poland rapidly from communism to capitalism.

## Manila can rebound, says IMF

MANILA, Philippines, Dec 12, (AP): The Philippines can rebound from the economic response to last week's failed coup attempt, a senior International Monetary Fund official said after meeting today with President Corazon Aquino.

Prabhakar Narvakar, the IMF's Asian department director, also affirmed the organisation's support for Aquino.

Prices dropped today for the second successive trading day on the Manila Stock Exchange, as participants continued to sell following the nine-day coup attempt that ended Saturday. At least 13 people died and more than 500 were injured in the fighting between loyal and rebel troops.

Narvakar said he was "quite confident" the Philippines can recover from the negative effects of the most serious of at least six coup attempts against Aquino's government. "I have seen so many countries undergo so many crises and rebounding," he said.

Government officials assured him that they are doing their best to arrest the economy's double-digit inflation and maintain its 6.5 per cent growth target, Narvakar said.

On the stock exchange, the Manila composite stock index of 25 selected issues dropped 49.61 points to 1,162.21, down 4 per cent from Monday's close of 1,211.82.

Total losses in the index since Monday, when trading resumed after the market was closed for six days during the coup attempt, were 12.1 per cent, from an index level of 1,137.86 points on Nov 29.

## Currency rates

KUWAIT, Dec 12, (Kuwait): Following are the international currency rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait today.

	Buying	Selling
US dollar	0.29543	0.29658
DM	0.46075	0.46155
£	0.76766	0.76840
S Fr	0.18533	0.18641
F.Fr	0.04901	0.04937
It.lira	0.0002271	0.0002287
Jap.yen	0.0020413	0.0020535
Baht/Th.	0.78331	0.78710
S.Riyal	0.07873	0.07910
O.Royal	0.08111	0.08152
O.Royal	0.75654	0.77053

## Interest Rates

KUWAIT, Dec 12, (Kuwait): Following are the average K.D. interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait today.

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	8.51/16	8.91/16
3 months	8.51/16	8.91/16
6 months	8.51/16	8.71/16
1 year	8.51/16	8.51/16

## EXCHANGE RATES

Indian rupee	17,600
Sri Lankan rupee	7,480
Pakistani rupee	13,970
Bangladesh taka	9,100
US dollar	29,650
Pound sterling	47,250
UAE dirham	08069
Deutsche mark	16,855
Japanese yen	002059

## Brokerage firms bearish on economy, stocks for '90

NEW YORK, Dec 12, (AP): Pessimism is the message for 1990 from Wall Street, with major brokerages forecasting an economic downturn and some an outright recession.

In their annual year-ahead forecasts, the firms that both engineer multi-billion-dollar deals and advise individual investors aren't in total agreement, but none is optimistic.

The consensus view of Wall Street's sees is that slow economic growth, a weak dollar overseas and slumping corporate profits will combine to retard the economy and the stock market at the start of the new decade.

Kidder, Peabody and Co. predicts very slow growth in the range of 1 per cent but not a "dictionary definition" of a recession. The firm's inflation

estimates vary from just over 3 per cent to over 4 per cent, on the low side of Wall Street expectations.

Stefan Abrams, Kidder's chief investment strategist, said a key issue will be wage and employment pressures, and that more job cuts such as the recent 10,000 announced by IBM and more than 30,000 at AT&T could provoke a full-scale recession.

Economists are in agreement about groups of stocks that will do well in 1990: growth companies in areas such as pharmaceuticals and beverages, and recent "fallen angels" such as Anheuser-Busch Cos. Inc. or DuPont and Bradstreet Corp.

"After an eight-year run reflecting a seven-year economic expansion, my view is there ain't much out there that is

unexploited," Abrams said Monday. "We've had a long time to rotate everybody into one place."

Drexel Burnham Lambert Inc. is the leading 1990 Naysayer among the big firms. Its report on 1990, released today, is titled "What if bear market?" and features a drawing of a teddy bear on the cover. The firm predicts a recession.

Abby Joseph Cohen, Drexel's chief investment strategist, forecast that corporate profits will decline to earnings per share of \$22 and 50 cents for the Standard and Poor's 500 stock index, significantly lower than other firms' predictions in the S&P 500 range.

"We believe that profits have already peaked and that consensus expectations are too high," Cohen writes.

Drexel's recommendation: buy stocks in companies whose earnings and revenues are not likely to be hampered by an economic slowdown or recession, such as soft drinks, pharmaceuticals and emerging industries such as biotechnology.

Also contributing to a recession, Drexel says, is a declining money flow due to factors such as bearish foreign sentiment on the dollar, weakness in domestic demand for goods, lower corporate profits and soft real estate prices. Merrill Lynch and Co., the largest Wall Street firm, is slightly more sanguine. "We should escape a full-blown recession, but it may be a close call," chief economist Donald H. Strazheim wrote last week.

Returns on stocks should be below average next year, Merrill predicted, with a change in market leadership to capital goods and energy stocks from consumer and financial issues. Its recommendation: companies offering growth potential.

PaineWebber Inc. Chief economist Edward M. Kerschner was the most chipper of his peers, saying in a "happy New Year" memo to staffers that "before spring, lower interest rates and the outlook for upturn in the economy could be fuel for the next leg of the bull market."

Kerschner predicted the stock market could end 1990 10 per cent to 15 per cent higher than at the start.

The rapidly changing political situation in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe was a wild card cited by several economists. The Soviet Union needs Western technology to rebuild its economy, they said, and faster growth in Poland, East Germany, Hungary and Czechoslovakia could benefit the US economy.

Some economists say bonds should benefit because lower US defence spending should reduce the federal deficit, and therefore reduce interest rates, while stocks should gain based on both lower interest rates and faster global growth.

"It's all very bullish for bonds and stocks — as long as perestroika continues," Kerschner wrote, referring to Soviet restructuring.

## Gas field likely to go on stream in 1991

DOHA, Qatar, Dec 12, (AP): Petroleum Investment Corp. and the Gulf Investment Corp. of Kuwait.

Other banks included in the package are Britain's National Westminster Bank, Japan's Bank of Tokyo and Mitsubishi Bank, the American Chase Investment Bank and the Jeddah-based Riyadah Bank.

The deal was to be signed in March but covering negotiations were delayed, Gulf Times said.

The deal is to be completed by the end of next year. The field is expected to go on stream in 1991 at a total development cost of \$1.25 billion.

The newspaper quoted officials as saying the loan is self-liquidating and officials expect 50,000 barrels a day of liquid and condensate to be produced during the first phase.

Work on the first phase of the North Field, one of the largest in the world, involves tapping of the advisory council today, the

800 billion cubic feet a day of gas from the 380 trillion-cubic-foot reservoir in shallow waters 50 miles (80 km) off the landfall at Ras Lassan in the north of the country. Proven reserves are put at 150 trillion cubic feet.

Work began in May 1987 and is likely to be completed by the end of next year. The field is expected to go on stream in 1991 at a total development cost of \$1.25 billion.

The newspaper quoted officials as saying the loan is self-liquidating and officials expect 50,000 barrels a day of liquid and condensate to be produced during the first phase.

Addressing the new session of the advisory council today, the

Amir Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani, devoted considerable attention to the use of the natural gas wealth of the North Field.

"Our faith in the prominent place expected for the Qataris in the world gas trade is strengthened by the marked international shift to the use of natural gas due to increase awareness of the need to protect the environment."

He said natural gas is a clean fuel free of the pollution associated with traditional sources of energy and the risks inherent in nuclear energy.

On Monday, at a meeting with a group of Egyptian journalists the Amir predicted oil prices will gradually rise in the 1990s due to production cuts by some producing countries.

## Exchange reserves now total \$1.4b

## Argentina to renew dual exchange rate

BUENOS AIRES, Dec 12, (UPI): The US dollar will be allowed to float on Argentina's exchange markets, thereby creating a legal free-market rate that will co-exist with the fixed exchange rate, economists officials said today.

Economy Minister Nestor Rapanelli's announcement that the austral, Argentina's monetary unit, will be allowed to "oscillate with supply and demand" came amid cautious praise from bankers and business leaders for tough new austerity measures.

The austral, Argentina's currency, was devalued 53.8 per cent, to sell at 1,000 australes instead of the old rate of 650 australes. Export taxes were raised 11 per cent while import duties were trimmed by 10 per cent.

"In a short period of time, we will go to a system of absolutely free exchange," Rapanelli said in a radio and television speech explaining the austerity package.

The dual exchange rate system was attempted on Aug 3, 1988, by President Raúl Alfonsín's government in a programme called the "spring plan." Under the Alfonsín plan exchange rates were fixed for imports and exports, called the "commercial rate." A free rate was set for all other transactions.

On April 13 of this year, during a period of rapidly rising inflation, then-economy minister Juan Carlos Pugliese attempted a single free-market exchange rate, but the experiment ended in just six weeks and Argentina returned to a fixed official exchange rate on May 29.

Co-existing with the official exchange rate is a semi-legal black market, whose overheating in recent weeks prompted the government to launch its new austerity programme.

Rapanelli said the devaluation and gasoline price hike inevitably will lead to a temporary resumption of inflation that will go into a "downward trend."

He said Argentina will have a \$5 billion surplus in exports in 1989 and that foreign exchange reserves now total \$1.4 billion compared to "zero last July."

"We will definitely eradicate inflation," Rapanelli said. "We are cutting public spending every day."

Defenders of Rapanelli's proposed dual exchange rate said it enables the Central Bank to earn more australes by selling hard currency on the open market.

Critics called it complicated to operate and said it would lead to favouritism, allowing exporters and

importers to get cheap dollars from the Central Bank.

"The measures were necessary," Richard Handley, president of the Argentine branch of New York's Citibank, told a Buenos Aires radio station.

Banks were closed Monday to give the Central Bank time to distribute circulars on the new measures, which prohibit creditors of Argentina's \$7 billion internal debt from cashing in bonds for a period of two years.

The austral, Argentina's currency, was devalued 53.8 per cent, to sell at 1,000 australes instead of the old rate of 650 australes. Export taxes were raised 11 per cent while import duties were trimmed by 10 per cent.

Gasoline and fuel prices were raised from 59 per cent to 61 per cent and other hikes in other public utility rates, such as bus fares and electricity, were considered imminent.

Guillermo Alchouron, president of the Rural Society, which represents the country's large agricultural producers, said that although his organisation opposed details of the programme, "it is important that the population takes these measures well and that they work."

He said the Rural Society considers export taxes "perverse" and favoured ending the fixed exchange rate, but something the government has promised to do shortly.

An economist of the opposition Civic Union Party, Francisco Mezzadri, said the plan would be "very good if they can carry it out," but he warned that the government of President Carlos Menem "had lost credibility" because it had previously promised to make modifications of its economic programme until March.

Consumers were less sanguine.

Mario Gomez, 39, an apartment building superintendent, said, "I suppose the new measures mean we will have to tighten our belts again, but I don't know what this is all about."

A newsboy commented, "you can tell people are worried. They're buying a lot of financial newspapers."

The government said the austerity package was necessary because of a run on the dollar in recent weeks in foreign exchange markets. The rising price of the black market dollar presented the danger of provoking a new round of uncontrollable inflation.

Delors

## France to lift capital controls

PARIS, Dec 12, (Reuters): France, a leading backer of European Monetary Union (EMU), said today that it will lift its last exchange controls from January 1, freeing the country of limits on capital movements for the first time since World War Two.

The French government has decided to completely free the movement of capital from January 1, 1990, onward, Finance Minister Pierre Bérégovoy said in a statement.

"This expresses our confidence in the good health of the French economy and in the stability of our currency."

Most major controls on capital movement by French corporations were lifted in March.

The two remaining controls are a ban on residents holding accounts in French banks in foreign currencies, except for European currency units, and a veto on private French citizens holding foreign-based bank accounts.

Complete freedom of capital movement is one of the conditions set by the European Economic Community as the first stage in its drive toward EMU.

At a weekend's summit in Strasbourg, EEC leaders approved the

# ARAB TIMES Classifieds

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### For Rent

SALWA, villa, ground floor with kitchen and tele facilities for a couple/one or two bachelors to share with a small north Indian family. Tele. Ranjit Singh, Res. 4740386, off. 4812085, 8 am - 7:30 pm.

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KUWAIT City, behind the Sharq Tower. Sharing accommodation in a room for a Mangalorean/Goan bachelor from 1.1.90. Tele. Quadras, 481519, 4849355.

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SALWA, deluxe, ground floor flat, CAC, with swimming pool, cupboards, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, servant's room, and a large hall. Rent KD450, with water and electricity. Tele. 5324848.

(AT5-50635-6)

SULABIKHAT, top half large luxury villa, 5 bedrooms, 4 with ensuite bathrooms, 2 lounges, large kitchen. Total floor area approximately 65 sq.m., CAC, car park, KD500, with water and electricity. Tele. Nafia, 5730720.

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### Available

KUWAIT City, above Hale Restaurant. One room for bachelors to share with a Goan family. Contact M/ Al Saheb Sari Store. Tele. 2402867.

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JULEEB Al Shiyookh, near the Salim Stores. Accommodation in a flat for an Indian bachelor to share with another. Tele. Mrs PO. 4319570.

(AT5-50648-3)

KUWAIT City, above Hot Pot Restaurant, accommodation in tele. facilities for 3 Goan bachelors, to share with an Indian family. Tele. 2403947, after 2 pm.

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## FOR SALE

### Cars

TOYOTA Crown 1984, dark blue, automatic with AC and sunroof, 66000 kms, insured upto September 1990, in very good condition. KD1800. Tele. 2452047.

(AT5-50700-3)

OLDSMOBILE 98 Brougham, 1985, blue, with black hard top, full options, in very good condition. KD2000 negotiable, cash or instalments. Tele. 5722056.

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## WANTED

### DELIVERY COURIER

Must have  
— Smart appearance  
— Valid Kuwaiti driving licence  
— Transferable residence  
— Good knowledge of English and Arabic  
Please call, 2443996 between 9-11 am

## FOR RENT

On Beda Beach, two-storey villas for rent. A basement, swimming pool, tennis courts and car parking.

Also available, apartments in Bneid Al Qar, 3 bedrooms and other services. Call Tel. 2409445, 2414857.

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AND MANY MORE  
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### Auto-engineer

With knowledge of car computer/auto-mechanics & auto-electricians for petrol engine cars, preferably with Kuwaiti driving licence. Tel: 2404223

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With knowledge of fax, telex, typing and Arabic/English. Must have transferable visa.

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# MARKET PLACE

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SOFA set (2), central table wooden and glass, TV stand, baby cot, cooker (old). Mishref, Area 4, Street No. 5, House 26A. Tel. 5391086.

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TWO floor deluxe villa in Salwa completely equipped with European furniture for sale or rent with telephone and fax. Tele. 5636753-2-6 pm.

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FLAT for sale with furniture, television, domestic appliances, carpet, curtains etc. Rent KD160 pm. Furniture can be sold separately. Tele. 4740943. Res. 5316791 off.

(AT5-50659-3)

ONE wall-unit, 3 single-beds, kitchen table, dining table, sofa set, 3 cabinets, 3 desks, 2 bureaux etc. Tele. 2452338 upto 6 pm. 57522870 ext 463 after 7 pm.

(AT4-50674-3)

TV, dish washer, electric oven, dining table with fixed chairs and other household and electric items. Tele. 5637249, 2-5 pm.

(AT5-50682-3)

LEAVING Kuwait, must sell contents of apartment fast. All to be sold at bargain prices. Tele. 2633756, 8 am-1 pm, 4-9 pm.

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FIRST class, high quality brand new rattan and bamboo saloon sets; dining table. Reasonable prices. Al Farwaniya, near the fire station. Tele. Mahmud, 4715419.

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THICK window curtains, Italian dressing table with mirror, Sanyo 20 inch TV, steel cupboard for clothes/books and miscellaneous items, in excellent condition. Tele. M Anowar 5658662.

(AT5-50692-9)

ROWLAND speaker amplifier, 100 watts, 15" woofer + mid + tweeter, equaliser, 4 separate input jack, 2 separate volume, 6 months old. Original price KD300, selling price KD165. Tele. Khaled, 2525595.

(AT4-50653-3)

BABY-SITTING and nursery available with a good experienced Indian lady in Yarmouk near the faculty of Science, Khaldiya. Tele. Mrs D'Souza, 4849146, 8 am-1 pm.

(AT4-50655-3)

STITCHING, cooking, henna lessons given by an experienced lady at home at Mecca Street, Fahheel, near the Sadaf Pharmacy. Tele. Sheela, 3920760, 8 am-1 pm.

(AT3-50638-3)

COMPUTERS

APPLE IIC, brand new, complete monitor, stand, mouse and Apple work, original software and games plus TV modulator. (1 year guarantee). Tele. Nazar 5658662.

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SERVICES

BABY SITTING

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AL SAQIYA

Sabah Al Salem villa 3 bedrooms, 2 saloons, carpet, and curtains, KD350. Mishref - half villa 4 bedrooms, saloon, 2 bathrooms KD450.

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Flats, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, KD235.

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3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms on Gulf Road

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Candidates must have transferable residence permit: with 3 years' experience.

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A reputed company is in need of an

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Who is good in electronics control, and must have 5 years' experience in the field.

Applicant must have valid transferable residence.

Eligible candidates are kindly requested to call Operations Manager.

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JUMBO SALE

Each day in the

classified

pages of the

Arab Times

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## NAME CHANGE

I, RONALD, holder of Indian passport No X924691 wish to change my name to Ronald Valerian Crasta.

(AT5-50694-2)

## LOST

PASSPORT No. U 603951 in the name of Sai Narasi Mulu, Indian. Finder please tele. Sifa, 4843829 or inform the Indian embassy.

(AT5-50694-2)

PASSPORT No. C 183475 in the name of Mohd Ali son of Mohd Shafi, Pakistani. Lost on 11/12/89. Finder please tele. Mr Nasim, 2435038 or inform the Pakistani embassy.

(AT5-50694-2)

## SITUATIONS

### Vacant

MAID required for a small family. Visa and residence can be provided. Tele. 5637089.

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## MISCELLANEOUS

STITCHING, cooking, henna lessons given by an experienced lady at home at Mecca Street, Fahheel, near the Sadaf Pharmacy.

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## Wanted

AN efficient and educated driver with 13 years experience and transferable visa, seeks job. Tele. Mr Ahmed, 5612240.

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## ATHLETICS

## Australians name team for Games

MELBOURNE, Australia, Dec 12. (AP) Seoul Olympics Games 400 metres hurdles gold medallist Debbie Flintoff-king heads an 85-member Australian track and field team named today to compete in next month's Auckland Commonwealth Games.

The team of 49 men and 36 women was announced by Athletics Australia President David Prince, but a row immediately broke out because of the size of the squad for the meet, scheduled Jan 23 to Feb 3.

Australian Commonwealth Games Association secretary Arthur Tunstall said the team comprised 15 athletes more than had been approved by the ACGA.

Tunstall said ACGA executive members would hold a telephone link-up with Athletics Australia officials on Thursday before deciding whether to approve the increase.

Prince said Athletics Australia would not consider further cuts to the team because it considered the squad selected could win up to 40 medals.

## Total

"This is the bottom line," he said.

Australia won 26 track and field medals at the 1986 Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Prince said a total of 126 athletes had met the games qualifying standards. Among the omissions were 1982 Commonwealth Games 800 metres gold medallist Peter Bourke and veteran middle distance runner Mike Hillard.

Four athletes; long jumper Jane Flemming, Seoul Olympic 400 metres finalist Maree Holland, defending long jump champion Gary Honey and Edinburgh shot put silver medallist Joe Quigley were selected subject to fitness.

The team will have a pre-games tryout on Jan 14 against England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Canada, Nigeria, Jamaica, Kenya, New Zealand and the Bahamas in the Festival of Sydney International.

## Mulsanne Straight highly dangerous: Fisa

## Le Mans forced to conform



An action shot from this year's Le Mans race held in June. (Reuter filephoto)

future, the car will fly.

"Spectators are forbidden from the straight. It is too dangerous. They are not allowed to go there. So why do the drivers have to go there?"

Schlesser admitted that, as a Frenchman, he would feel some sadness if the Le Mans 24-hour race was not run again, but stresses that the safety aspect could be ignored no longer.

"They have chicanes at Hockenheim and they shortened SPA so they must do something at Le Mans. It is one of the most dangerous circuits in the world and was certainly, with the straight, the most dangerous on the year."

"This is because we, the drivers, get used to it. We are proficient and for us it is not complicated to drive on it—but that is the great danger with the speed and that is why I am against it."

The Italian Alfa Romeo and British Jaguars established their reputations with great runs of successive wins in the 1930s and

speed, you can do nothing. Nothing at all. And do not forget that small planes take off now at about 200 kph and we are racing at double that speed with only 900 kilos."

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"They have chicanes at Hockenheim and they shortened SPA so they must do something at Le Mans. It is one of the most dangerous circuits in the world and was certainly, with the straight, the most dangerous on the year."

"This is because we, the drivers, get used to it. We are proficient and for us it is not complicated to drive on it—but that is the great danger with the speed and that is why I am against it."

The problem is that if you have any problems at all at that

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## Kuwait Darts League

## Soweto Slingers overcome MEE

MIDDLE EASTENDERS' fine win over Bulls Hitlers last week was tempered by this week's result in their Mouche Wednesday Kuwait Darts League fixture with Soweto Slingers. The top of the table clash between last year's winners and the current pace setters was held in an atmosphere of tense pre-match excitement, as the onlooking crowd was held in abeyance.

Ian Moorhouse almost caused an upset against Ian Thomas in the opener, narrowly losing the deciding leg despite Thomas' 7 high scores. Second up, was informant Richard Ellis faced by an undefeated John Morris. Morris won the first leg convincingly, before the consistent Ellis once more started to find the mark. His 5th and 6th 140s of the season won him the 2nd leg and gave him a good start in the decider, but the Scotsman still snatched the game from Ellis' grasp.

With the game poised at 1-1, John Donovan took to the oche, still in search of his first win, against Peter Bedlow. The quiet spoken Englishman found form hard to come by until he hit a 140, but by then the gritty Welshman had clinched the first leg with double 8, and not to be denied, repeated thefeat to win 2-0.

In the final singles match Terry Slattery took an easy first leg lead from Geoff Clark, who used 18 darts just to break the 400 mark, but Clark showed his true mettle by responding with 3 high scores, and just managed to pip Slattery in both the next legs. The match to this point had produced 21 high scores, a KDL record, and when Slingers started both Mickey Mouse games with two trebles, MEE knew their number was up, and they graciously had to accept defeat as their opponents seemed to be able to do no wrong.

An equally impressive display was then seen in the ladies match. Both 301 went to Avengers, with double 8 at the first attempt, and at 2-0 they appeared to be taking total control, especially when they built a useful lead in the first Mickey Mouse game, but consistent scoring by MEE Ladies set up Betty Morris who saved the leg with 3 bull in 2

darts to reduce the score to 2-1. Suzanne Jankowski once more got the Avengers off to a flying start with two scoring trebles, again MEE ladies fighting back to draw level on 97 points each. With both teams needing 3 bulls to win, the visiting team appeared to have saved the match as they hit 225, but they reckoned without Jankowski who tied the game for good with a 25 and centre bull to give the Avengers victory.

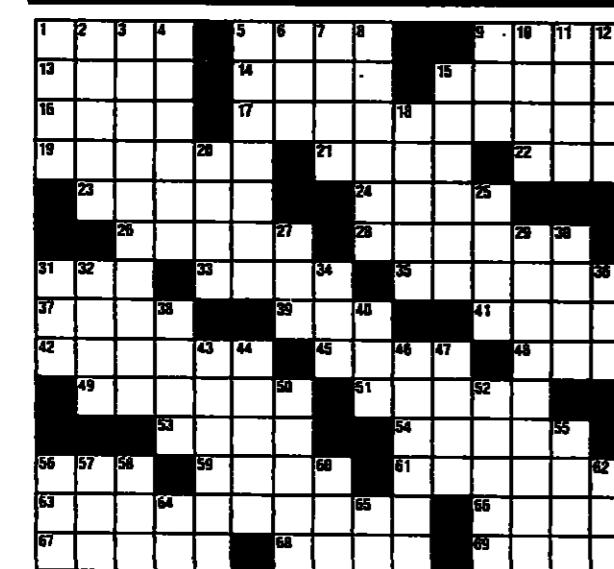
Hus Beans are the new League leaders on game difference, thanks to a 6-0 win at No Hoper, who caught several waves but not many doubles, as they spent more time on a more colourful board sport. The ladies draw off Northern Lights off the bottom for the first time, and was Hus Beans 4th in 5 matches. Dorothy Carr earned her trophy with 3 bulls. Bulls Hitlers returned to winning ways, but not without some alarms against Nobblers, Steve Edwards getting 140, but Nobblers did earn a splendid point against the ladies leaders, despite Margaret Watson getting a 125 and two MM trebles.

Mugs Away stayed firmly in contention with two wins at Grabbers as it turned into Hasen Day — Chris with 140 and Mary with 2 scoring MM trebles. Blackouts shocked Equalisers taking 3 out of the 4 points in a match the home side must have fancied would have maintained their revival, whilst in the final fixture. Absolutely gained a point from a leading team, Wearapeel A 140 from Mike Durkin was not enough to keep his unbeaten record as Nick Harvey ran up 5 high scores in a 22-1 win. Bedlow Comments made it 7 out of 9 with a 4-0 rout that moves them up to 3rd spot. Eileen Walters being a highly delighted recipient of the ladies trophy.

The full results summary for this week's Mouche Wednesday Darts League fixtures is as follows, with Ladies' scores in brackets:

S. Singers	(2) 5 MEE
Equalisers	(2) 2 Blackouts
Bulls Hitlers	(2) 4 Nobblers
No Hoper	(2) 0 Hus Beans
Nobblers	(2) 0 Mugs Away
Jabriya Grabs	(2) 0
Absolutely	(0) 3 Wearapeel

## TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS  
1 Midlothian  
5 Travel agents' org.  
9 Created  
13 "— want for Christmas..."  
14 Box lightly  
15 Lid  
16 Pirate Captain  
—  
17 Garb for a kid brother  
19 Live oak  
21 Aim  
22 Humorist Bill  
23 Sparkle  
24 "The Babe"  
26 Bone: Prefix  
28 Most foxy  
31 Stoepie,  
for one  
33 Probability  
35 Very funny story  
37 Yearn  
39 Kind of phone or drum  
41 Israeli port  
42 Dubs  
45 1989, e.g.  
48 Baseball name of fame  
49 Land holding  
51 Display concern  
53 — poker  
54 Part of Miss Muffet's meal  
55 A Gershwin  
56 Wading bird  
61 Freside area  
63 Passe  
66 Diminish in a way  
67 British TV  
68 Nonpareil  
69 Western Indians  
70 Dried up  
71 Cincinnati nine  
72 Church locations  
DOWN  
1 Tokyo potatoation  
2 Adhere  
3 Used items  
4 Puts in order, with "up"  
5 Embarrassed  
6 Restorative resort  
7 Sharp taste  
8 Passions  
9 Trendy one  
10 Stratford's river  
11 Moist  
12 Sea bird  
15 Boston cager  
18 Heavy hammers org.  
25 Spouse of Zeus  
27 — on Indolence": Keats  
29 Not up to snuff  
30 Tangy  
31 Possesses  
32 High point  
34 Utter  
36 Converged  
38 Diner sign  
40 Ump's cousin  
43 Accept formally  
44 Ticket parts  
46 Tell and Hood  
47 Wolf, in a sense  
50 Blue-pencil wielder  
52 Summarize  
55 Scatter  
58 Speck  
59 King of the Huns  
60 Auld lang —  
62 Dame Myra  
64 Word with hat or hand  
65 Conducted

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♦ A10 ♦ AKJ1052 ♦ 6 ♦ Q974 Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond? A.—This hand meets both criteria for a jump shift: a self-sustaining suit of its own, and a fit for partner's suit. So even though the high-card count is only 14, we would jump to two hearts immediately.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♦ Q753 ♦ Q865 ♦ QJ62 ♦ 7 The bidding has proceeded: North East South West 1 ♠ Pass 1 0 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass ? What action do you take? A.—Although textbooks proclaim that you need 25-26 points to make game at no trump, most forget to mention one added provision: both hands have to have a fair share of high cards. When the points are distributed 19-20 and 7, high cards alone are not enough, especially when there is no fit. Pass.

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♦ AK73 ♦ J97 ♦ J873 ♦ 92 Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond? A.—Don't bypass a four-card major in favor of raising partner's minor, especially these days when partner might be bidding a three-card suit. Respond one heart.

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♦ 8 ♦ K4 ♦ 96542 ♦ J39765 Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What action do you take? A.—It is quite likely that you have a better spot, but how do you propose getting there? Even if you play one no trump as forcing, that action is fraught with danger. Since you do not have the values for an immediate response, pass.

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♦ J2 ♦ Q764 ♦ K932 ♦ A107 Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond? A.—With two four-card suits, you respond as cheaply as possible to partner's minor-suit opening bid. With two five-card suits, however, bid the higher-ranking first, regardless of suit quality. Therefore, bid one spade.

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♦ 87632 ♦ AKJ54 ♦ 8 ♦

# Nam captures Peter Wilson Trophy

H.S. NAM, the much improved golfer from South Korea, eked out a tight victory margin of one point to win the Peter Wilson Trophy.

Fifty-one golfers turned out last Friday in fine weather at the Hunting and Equestrian Golf Club to contest for the trophy in memory of the late Dr Peter Wilson, who was a founding member of

## Zurbriggen scores first victory of season

SESTRIERE, Italy, Dec 12. (AP) Joe Montana and John Taylor combined for touchdown passes of 92 and 55 yards as the San Francisco 49ers twice came back from 17-point deficits to beat the Los Angeles Rams 30-27, last night and clinch the division championship.

Zurbriggen, who's trying for a record-equaling fourth overall title in his final racing year, completed the fast, hard-packed Kandahar course in one minute, 37.39 seconds.

World Cup defending champion Marc Girardelli of Luxembourg fell 25 seconds into the race, skidded off the course and joined the long list of early season casualties.

Eriksson, who had won the opening World Cup Giant Slalom in Australia last August, finished in 1:37.50 minutes.

Franck Piccard of France came third in 1:37.86, ahead of Norwegian Atle Skaarda, who was a surprising fourth following a second-group start. He had 1:37.93.

The great showing Scandinavian showing was completed by Swede Niklas Henning, who came in fifth at 1:38.74.

Henning had won the first Super-G of the European season on Sunday by beating Piccard in Val D'Isere, France. Eriksson had placed fourth.

World Cup overall-leader Ole Christian Furseth of Norway did not finish among the top 15 and failed to win any points. However, he held first place in the standings after nine events with 118 points while Zurbriggen moved into second place with 101 points.

Girardelli was taken by sled to the local clinic for X-rays. Initial medical reports said he did not suffer any fracture, but doctors said they were checking a severe back contusion.

Zurbriggen said that the 2,525-metre course, which drops 650 metres and was made with artificial snow, was extremely fast "and security was not so good."

Eriksson said the course was somewhat narrow "but considering how they had to prepare it, it was not bad at all."

Early season injured have so far sidelined leading skiers such as Italy's Alberto Tomba and Michael Mair, American Tamara McKinney and Swiss Martin Hagni.

## Royals sign Davis for \$13 million

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec 12. (Reuters) The Kansas City Royals signed free agent relief pitcher Mark Davis to a four-year contract yesterday that once again raised the salary ceiling in Major League baseball.

Sources said Davis, the National League Cy Young award winner who led the Majors in saves last season with 44, will receive \$13 million — an average of \$3.25 million per year.

It is the fourth time that baseball's salary record has been broken in the past month.

Last year with the San Diego Padres, Davis was successful on 44 of 48 save opportunities and posted a 4-3 record with an earned run average of 1.83. He allowed just 66 hits in 92 innings of work, striking out 92 and walking 31.

The signing of Davis by Kansas City, who also have last year's American League Cy Young winner, Bret Saberhagen, on their pitching staff, intensifies the pressure on World Series champions Oakland Athletics in the American League West.

The Royals had already added free agent Storm Davis, who won 19 games for Oakland last season, to their staff.

The California Angels, another Western Division contender, spent \$16 million to sign left-handed starter Mark Langston to a five-year contract.

this club.

The competition was played under the bogey rules where a plus is awarded for birdie or better, zero for par and minus for bogey or worse.

H.S. Nam (17) playing steady golf under almost ideal conditions carded a plus two to edge J.R. Chang and K.K. Lee (22) both

with plus one. J.R. Chang finally taking the runner-up spot on a count-back and K.K. Lee taking third place.

In side competition, it was a day to remember for H.S. Nam when his sand wedge tee shot landed 18 inches from the flag to win nearest to the pin contest on the par-3 thirteenth, while long-hitting C.K.

Lim won the longest drive contest on the par-4 seventeenth when his tee shot driven into a stiff wind landed 270 yards down the fairway.

Only Valentina Hedenstrom stopped a Korean clean sweep of this contest when she won the longest drive competition for women.

## San Francisco gain home-field advantage

# 49ers beat Rams for title

ANAHEIM, California, Dec 12. (AP) Joe Montana and John Taylor combined for touchdown passes of 92 and 55 yards as the San Francisco 49ers twice came back from 17-point deficits to beat the Los Angeles Rams 30-27, last night and clinch the division championship.

The 49ers, who trailed 17-0 after 13 minutes and 27-10 1:26 into the fourth quarter, got the winning score on a 1-yard run by Roger Craig with 3:12 left. It gave the 49ers a 12-2 record and clinched not only the NFC West title but the home-field advantage throughout the playoffs.

Despite the heroics by Montana, who completed 30 of 42 for 458 yards, and Taylor, who caught 11 for 286 yards, both team records, the game turned on two Los Angeles turnovers in the fourth quarter.

The first came with the Rams leading 27-17 with a first down at San Francisco 5.

Jim Everett fumbled the snap and Matt Millen recovered at the 4. On the first play, Montana



Roger Craig: got the winning score

found Taylor short over the middle and he sped along the right sideline for the score. They had combined on a 92-yarder in the second quarter two plays after the rams, then ahead 17-3, failed on a fake field goal attempt.

### Standings

Standings of National Football League teams after games played yesterday (tabulate under won, lost, tied, points for,

### against:

#### American Conference Eastern Division

	W	L	T	PF	PA
Buffalo	8	6	0	362	296
Miami	8	6	0	294	310
Indianapolis	7	7	0	250	247
New England	5	9	0	267	339
N.Y. Jets	4	10	0	239	336

#### Central Division

Houston	9	5	0	338	327
Cleveland	7	6	1	287	217
Cincinnati	7	7	0	322	249
Pittsburgh	7	7	0	206	294

#### Western Division

Denver	10	4	0	309	207
L.A. Raiders	8	6	0	281	240
Kansas City	7	7	1	231	232
Seattle	4	8	0	218	281
San Diego	4	10	0	227	261

#### National Conference

	W	L	T	PF	PA
Philadelphia	10	4	0	291	230
N.Y. Giants	10	4	0	299	235
Washington	8	6	0	326	278
Phoenix	5	9	0	244	309
Dallas	1	13	0	194	358

#### Central Division

Minnesota	9	5	0	305	231
Green Bay	8	6	0	302	318
Chicago	6	8	0	320	311
Tampa Bay	5	9	0	291	355
Detroit	5	9	0	248	333

#### Western Division

San Francisco	12	2	0	395	243
L.A. Rams	9	5	0	364	310
New Orleans	7	7	0	315	275
Atlanta	3	11	0	225	375



The victorious Evergreen squad.

## Evergreen reach semifinals

### QMCC overwhelm Lions



Sadatqat: five for 15

EVERGREEN cricketers defeated Mughal Cricket Club (MCC) by 25 runs at the EPI Ground earlier this week to reach the semifinals of the Bhutto Memorial Trophy cricket tournament.

In bat to bat by MCC's skipper Evergreen reached 163 for nine in 27 overs, the main contributors were Bader (30), Anjum Raza (29), Mehbob (28) and Amjad Malik (20).

For MCC, Naeem Butt and Maqbool bowled well taking three wickets each.

Shahid Maqbool, deputising injured skipper Asad Baig, realising the modest total he had to defend, marshalled his fielders well and made timely bowling changes thus restricting his opponents to 138 runs only in 27 overs during which eight wickets fell.

Tariq, with an unbeaten 74, was the only hero for MCC but his efforts could not get his team a

team to introduce to the sponsors of the tournament, Peoples Club president Dr Riaz Mehseer and secretary Rafique Mirza.

Also present during the ceremony were Yunus Chaudhry and Evergreen's senior vice-president Salim Pervez.

In a match of the Honda Cricket Trophy played at Salimya ground on Friday, Quaid-e-Millat Cricket Club (QMCC) crushed Lions by eight wickets.

While batting first, Lions managed just 72 runs with Afsar (22) being the top scorer. Sadatqat was the wrecker-in-chief for QMCC and took five for only 15 runs.

Amjad Malik supported him well with two for 18.

QMCC surpassed their opponents total after losing only both the openers Javid and Chaacha Hameed, who was run-out for a well-made 23. Amjad (20) and Jamil Muhammad supported him well

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# India in driving seat for first time in series

SIALKOT, Pakistan, Dec 12. (Reuter): India, having held Pakistan to a draw in the first three cricket Tests, are in the driving seat for the first time in the series with two days of the fourth and final match left.

Pakistan resume their first innings tomorrow, following today's rest day, 143 behind India with five wickets in

hand, including that of captain Imran Khan.

Imran, who is 21 not out and represents a major stumbling block to the touring team, conceded that India were holding all the cards and for the first time in the high-scoring series they were in control of the situation.

"It has become an absorbing test. We

gave away too many runs because of the inexperience of our bowlers to bowl on the green-top wicket," he told reporters.

But Imran said he thought India might not have enough time to force a win after nearly 230 minutes were lost on the first three days because of bad weather and interruptions caused by the crowd throwing fruit at Indian fielders.

Indian captain Krishnamachari Srikant said he was delighted with the performance of his side.

"We're very happy to be in this position and the team owes everything to the bowlers who bowled beautifully," he said.

Srikant praised Vivek Razdan, the 20-year-old seamer from Delhi who has

taken three for 68 in only his second Test. He said both Kapil Dev and fellow paceman Manoj Prabhakar were unlucky not to get more than one wicket each but had contained the batsmen with their accuracy, Kapil conceding only 29 runs in his 24 overs.

Score: India 324, Pakistan 181 for five.

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### Cavaliers win

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, Dec 12. (AP): Craig Shilo made two 3-point shots in the final 4.3 seconds of overtime, including the game-winner as time expired last night and the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the Utah Jazz 113-110.

### Four killed

KUMASI, Ghana, Dec 12. (AP): Four people were killed when soccer fans rushed to get away from tear gas police fired at gangs trying to rob a stadium cashier, police said today.

### Postal competition

LONDON, Dec 12. (Reuter): A postal competition between English and South African archers dating back 30 years has been shot down by the Commonwealth Games council because it contravenes the international sports boycott of the republic.

### Girardelli hurt

SESTRIERE, Italy, Dec 12. (AP): Marc Girardelli of Luxembourg, the defending World Cup overall ski champion, was injured today in a spectator fall during a Super-Giant Slalom race.

### Appearance fees

MILAN, Italy, Dec 12. (AP): Organisers of the Feb 5-11 Milan indoor tennis tournament said yesterday they will offer about \$600,000 in appearance fees on top of the \$600,000 in prize money.

### Cup squad

SYDNEY, Australia, Dec 12. (AP): Injury-plagued duo Pat Cash and Darren Cahill today were named to a seven-man Australian tennis squad to prepare for the first round Davis Cup match against France in Perth from Feb 2-4.

## AC Milan go straight to training

TOKYO, Dec 12. (Reuter): European champions AC Milan arrived in Tokyo today for Sunday's World Club Soccer Championship — and went straight to a training session before even booking into their hotel.

The Italians, seeking their third international club title of the year following their Champions' Cup win in May and their Super Cup victory over Cup Winners' Cup holders Barcelona last week, trained for an hour following their 12-hour flight.

Their opponents in Sunday's match, South American champions Medellin of Colombia, were scheduled to arrive tomorrow after an overnight stop in Los Angeles.

Milan, world club champions in 1969 that when they beat Independiente of Argentina, were in confident mood despite the absence of Dutch international Ruud Gullit, who has played only one match since April because of a nagging knee injury.

He recently had a third operation and is not expected to be fit until the new year.

Trainer Arrigo Sacchi told a packed press conference at Narita airport that his side had come to play an entertaining game of football. "If we can add the Cup to that, which we want with all our hearts, so much the better."

"But we know nacional medellin are difficult opponents, because they include many of the Colombian national side," he said.

He emphasised, however, that his own 18-strong squad was on top form, especially following the return from injury of captain Franco Baresi and midfielder Carlo Ancelotti.

Of Gullit's loss, Sacchi said: "(Marco) Van Basten, Baresi, (Frank) Rijkaard, (Roberto) Donadoni and the others know they must give something extra to compensate for his absence."

The team will be announced on the eve of the match, Sacchi said.

### BRIDGE

RESULTS of the Dunhill Bridge Tournament (11th week) held at the Mousham Beach Hotel on Monday:

N S  
1 Dr. Adel & Sherm  
2 Dr. & Mrs. Oskay  
3 Krishnaswamy & Alen

E W  
1 Ikrum Haq & Nasar  
2 Dreier & Carsten  
3 Dujaj & Sultan Ali

# Taylor hits ton to set record

## Sri Lanka-Australia Test drawn



Taylor sweeps a ball from Aravinda de Silva for four runs. (Reuter wirephoto)

BRISBANE, Australia, Dec 12. (Reuter): Sri Lanka achieved an honourable draw against their hosts today but not before Australian opener Mark Taylor set a record by scoring 164 on the final day of the first Test.

Australia, who scored 367 in their first innings, reached 375 for six in their second innings at close of play, a lead of 324 runs. Sri Lanka had lost their previous two Tests against Australia by an innings.

Taylor became the first player to score 1,000 Test runs in his first year in Test cricket on the way to his third Test century. He made his debut for Australia in the fourth Test against West Indies in January.

The left-hander, who hit 839 runs in the Ashes series against England, plundered 17 fours and two sixes off a depleted Sri Lanka attack in his 10th Test.

Ravi Ratnayake did not bowl in the second innings because of a side injury while his fellow strike bowler Graeme Labrooy managed just 11 overs today before injury sidelined him.

Taylor, 36 overnight, put on 149 runs for the fourth wicket with Steve Waugh who was happy to take a back seat as his normally cautious partner thrashed the bowling around the ground.

Taylor was lucky to survive

shortly after Australia resumed at 94 for one. With one run added to the overnight score Taylor came down the wicket to leg-spinner Asoka de Silva and was beaten. But wicketkeeper Gammie Wickremasinghe missed the stamping.

He was out shortly after tea lbow to Champaka Ranayake after the bowler had complained about the ball to the umpires.

Taylor was asked if he was happy with its shape. He said he was seeing it clearly but proceeded to miss the next ball to bring his 425-minute innings to a close.

Despite Taylor missing out on a double century Australian captain Allan Border ignored the chance to declare and give his much-criticised all-pace attack a chance to redeem themselves.

Immediately after the game Australian selectors announced leg-spinner Peter Sleep would be included in the squad for the second Test, starting on Friday in Hobart.

Geoff Lawson, who only took one wicket against Sri Lanka, has been dropped after appearing in all six Tests in England.

Australia's bowling has looked pedestrian in two draws this season and has missed the variety provided by leg-spinner Trevor Hohns, who retired after the 4-0 thrashing of England.

Result — Match drawn.

Second Test — December 16-20.

In order that all competitors

## Desert Challenge details announced

JEDDAH: The 1990 BP 2000 Trophy — Marlboro Desert Challenge four-wheel-drive series will be the biggest yet with an increased calendar to six rallies throughout the Middle East. This will allow more spectators to see the exciting four-wheel-drive series for themselves, as well as giving a new and increasing number of drivers a chance to compete and win in rallying.

The details of the series were announced yesterday at a press conference at the annual Jeddah Motor Show in Saudi Arabia. The programme of rallies in the 1990 Marlboro Desert Challenge series is as follows:

BP 2000 Trophy UAE — January 18/19

BP 2000 Trophy Oman — March 22/23

BP 2000 Trophy Jordan — July 19/20

BP 2000 Trophy Kuwait — September 27/28

BP 2000 Trophy Qatar — October 11/12

BP 2000 Trophy Bahrain — November 8/9

In order that all competitors

have a fair chance in the standard and modified rally classifications, the best five results will count championship points. As with the 1989 series, the series is broken into separate classifications, allowing for powerful rally specified cars, along with showroom standard 4x4 vehicles.

In 1989 the Marlboro Desert Challenge was won for the second consecutive season by Qatar's Abbas Al Mosawi, who drove for Mitsubishi Motors Corporation, in a long-wheel-base Pajero. Winner of the standard classification was Mohamed Al Makti from Riyadh in Saudi Arabia — driving a privately entered V6 Mitsubishi Pajero.

Of significance in 1989 was the emergence in the Gulf wide off road championship, of a number of exciting new talents to the Gulf rallying scene. The most notable of these was the young Nasser Al Attiya from Qatar. He finished third in the Marlboro Desert Challenge in a Nissan Patrol, and at only 19 years of age looks like a serious prospect for future Middle East rally events.

## Flying Arrows win

FLYING ARROWS reached the finals of the Champions Trophy hockey tournament with a 3-1 victory over Kuwait Independent (Black) at the Ahmadi grounds earlier this week.

Showing their intentions right from the start of the game, Independents went ahead when they scored through Peter off the first chance that came their way.

This early goal spurred Flying Arrows into action but they could not get the equaliser and were still 1-0 down at the interval.

After the interval, Flying Arrows went all out for the equaliser with Sunil and Tony excelling in the midfield. Their efforts were rewarded soon, James received a pass from Joel, dribbled past two Independent defenders and gave the rival goalkeeper no chance to effect a save.

After getting the equaliser, Flying started dominating the game. They soon increased the margin through Martin. The third goal of the match, again scored by Martin, was the best of the whole match.

Meanwhile Al Hilal beat Unity 1-0 to reach the semifinals of the Sharpa Trophy.

In a match in which the whole game was restricted to the midfield, Mobasher of Al Hilal stood out in the defence, foiling a number of attacks launched by Unity's Amjad and Liaquat.

Unity got a chance to take the lead but Khalid shot wide. The only goal of the match was scored by Nasser.

On Friday, Kuwait Independent (Black) meet Al Hilal in an Al Mulla Trophy match at 2.00 pm, Kuwait Independent (Gold) meet Unity in the Frankie Memorial tournament at 3.00 pm and Kuwait Cosmos take on Starworld in the Al Mulla Trophy also at 2.00 pm.

## Salud defeats Estrada for junior title

LOS ANGELES, Dec 12. (Reuter): American Jesus Salud took the World Boxing Association junior featherweight title from Mexico's Juan Jose Estrada yesterday after the referee disqualified Estrada in the ninth round for low blows.

Estrada was penalised in the sixth round and warned again in the seventh for low blows. In the ninth round, he crouched low and lunged forward while throwing an uppercut at Salud.

Salud was also moving in and caught the punch well below the belt. He fell to the canvas and curled up on his side as referee Larry Rozdilsky waved the fight to an end 48 seconds in to the round and declared Salud the winner.

Salud was well ahead on the judges' scorecards when the fight was halted. The scoring was 78-72, 80-71, 79-71 in the challenger's favour by the end of the eighth round.

Salud raised his record to 32 wins and three defeats. Estrada dropped to 36-8.

"The key to this fight was the counter-punching," Salud said. "He telegraphed his punches. I could see them coming."

Estrada said the low blows were unintentional. "Tonight was a bad night," he said through an interpreter.

Salud controlled the bout from the end of the second round when he stunned Estrada with a jarring left hook to the head. The American, who knocked Estrada down in the sixth, scored repeatedly with lefts and rights to the head against Estrada who was aggressive, but ineffective, to the end.



Barnes: to miss match due to injury

Teams:  
England — Peter Shilton, Paul Parker, Des Walker, Terry Butcher, Stuart Pearce, Michael Thomas, Bryan Robson, David Rocastle, Gary Lineker, Steve Bull, Chris Waddle, Yugoslavia (probable) —

Tomislav Ivkovic, Predrag Spasic, Faruk Hadzibegic, Davor Jozic, Andrej Panadic, Slobodan Marovic, Dragoljub Brnovic, Safet Susic, Dragon Stojkovic, Dejan Savicic, Radmilo Mihajlovic.

■ Nearly half the players on the pitch will be newcomers when Spain and Switzerland meet in a soccer friendly in the Canary Islands tomorrow.

Spain begin to limber up for the World Cup by fielding two new faces and the Swiss side will include seven after injuries kept midfielder Martin Andermat, strikers Beat Sutter and Stephan Chapuisat and reserve keeper Stefan Huber at home.

Switzerland are unlikely to provide any major headaches for the Spanish but coach Luis Suarez, worried about having to begin their World Cup campaign in June with a match against Uruguay, says his team needs all the warm-up friendlies they can get.

"You cannot compare Switzerland and Uruguay, but we are going to try a few things out," said Suarez.

He warned that Switzerland, captained by veteran Heinz Herrmann in his 98th international, had to be taken seriously, since former West German international and Real Madrid player Harald Gaemperl, Marcel Heidemann, Heinz Hermann, Didier Gilon, Blaise Piffaretti, Patrick Silvestre, Adrian Knup, Alain Sutter, Frederic Chassot, Fernando Gomez, Michel Gonzalez, Martin Vazquez, Villaroya, Luis Milla, Gabriel Moya, Manolo Sanchez, Felipe Minambres, Emilio Butrageno.

Switzerland — Martin Brunner, Philipp Walker, Herbert Baumann, Dominique Herr, Urs Fischer, Stefan Marin, Peter Schepull, Christophe Ohrel, Harald Gaemperl, Marcel Heidemann, Heinz Hermann, Didier Gilon, Blaise Piffaretti, Patrick Silvestre, Adrian Knup, Alain Sutter, Frederic Chassot, Kubilay Turkyilmaz, Marc Hotiger.

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